

Kuwait- Israelis worse than Nazis

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah accused Israel Monday of treating Palestinians in the occupied territories worse than the Nazis treated Jews and others in World War II. He also said the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) he did not expect any real result from the latest Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. "The Jews will talk about their treatment by the Nazis, and take this treatment as an excuse to pillage other peoples," Sheikh Sabah was quoted as saying. "But what they are doing now in the occupied territories against our Palestinian brothers — burning, killing, breaking and besieging — far exceeds their charges of Nazi treatment of them." Sheikh Sabah had only an international conference attended by all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), could secure peace for the Middle East. "I do not expect the new tour of the region by Secretary Shultz to result in any practical result especially after (Israeli Premier Yitzhak) Shamir's rejection of the proposals Shultz is carrying," Sheikh Sabah said.

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King attends army exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Monday attended a military training exercise carried out by Armed Forces formations. The exercises included shooting practice using live ammunition. The King met with the participants in the exercise and urged them to continue their efforts to maintain their standard of efficiency. The exercise was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb and high-ranking Armed Forces officers.

Chinese envoy holds talks in Oman

MUSCAT (R) — Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyan discussed efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn Alawi Monday, the Omani Press Agency reported. A Soviet envoy, Georgi Tarazevich, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, was due to arrive in Muscat later in the day for similar talks. Qi earlier visited Saudi Arabia, which does not have diplomatic relations with China, to deliver a message from President Li Xianxian to King Fahd.

Tunisian premier visits Libya

BEIRUT (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Libya Monday for talks on unity among Maghribi countries, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. JANA quoted Baccouche as saying at Tripoli airport his visit was to "establish the basis for bilateral ties and unity of the Maghrib and Arab countries." He said relations between Tunisia and Libya were strengthened after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi visited Tunis in February.

Israel TV refuses to subtitle Shultz

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television refused an American request to subtitle a prime-time interview with visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Arabic as well as Hebrew, authoritative sources said Monday. U.S. officials asked that the interview, broadcast on the main Sunday evening Hebrew news shortly after Shultz arrived on a Middle East peace mission, be subtitled in both languages to reach Arabs living in the occupied territories.

French mediator holds talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The head of a Paris-based pro-Arab group had talks Monday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. SANA said Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, discussed world and Arab issues with Sharaa, including the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. Bitterlin, who arrived in Syria four days ago, had contacts in December and January with the radical Fatah Revolutionary Council in efforts to win the release of eight Europeans seized from their yacht in the Mediterranean late last year.

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Palestinians stage anti-Shultz strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza staged a general strike Monday to protest U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit and Israeli troops shot dead at least one Palestinian protester during sporadic clashes.

Hospital officials in Hebron said soldiers shot dead 18-year-old Hamed Abed Al Mohdi during clashes in the West Bank village of Bani Na'im, and wounded three other Palestinians.

An army spokeswoman said Mohdi was killed in a violent protest. She said an Israeli soldier and a Palestinian were wounded during clashes in the Nahlas area at the Balata refugee camp, which was placed under curfew. A senior army officer said the press was barred from the Hebron area "because all the incidents there today began when television cameras appeared."

All shops except for pharmacies were closed in Arab Jerusalem and West Bank and Gaza Strip towns and the roads of the West Bank were deserted in response to a call from underground leaders of the 16-week-old Palestinian uprising for a strike "in expression of the masses' rejection of Shultz's conspiracy."

Several clashes were reported between troops and protesters in the West Bank villages of Shuyuk and Sair near Hebron, and Mazraa Al Shariyah and Dura Al Kar, north of Ramallah.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, Palestinians burned tyres, blocked roads and ambushed Israeli cars with stones in Al Bireh and at the Dheisheh refugee camp on the Bethlehem-Hebron road.

In their 12th leaflet, clandestine leaders of the uprising last week warned Palestinians against meeting Shultz.

Freshly-painted red slogans on

the walls of Ramallah and Al Bireh Monday proclaimed "down with Shultz solutions" "boycott Shultz" and "those who meet Shultz are traitors."

They were signed by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). U.S. officials said there were no plans for the secretary of state to meet Palestinians while in Jerusalem.

Arab Jerusalem's Palestinian press attacked Shultz Monday for endorsing Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' three "noes" — no to a Palestinian state, no to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and no to a return to Israel's pre-1967 borders.

"The right time for peace, which Shultz spoke about yesterday quoting the Bible, requires him to draw a true scenario, in which the PLO would have a primary role on an equal basis with other parties," the nationalist daily Al Shaab said.

Anwar Al Khatib, the former governor of Jerusalem, told reporters: "Why call the PLO traitors? Were not Shamir and (former prime minister Menachem) Begin before him the same when they blew up the King David Hotel?"

He was referring to a 1946 attack on the headquarters of British mandatory authorities in Palestine, in which Begin's terrorist underground Irgun movement killed 91 people, about half of them Britons.

Right-wing Israeli settlers also

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Syria seeks cooperation with U.S. in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Syria has told the United States it wants to cooperate seriously in trying to bring peace to Lebanon, says a senior U.S. official visiting Israel.

The official, who asked not to be identified, spoke with reporters Sunday about Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's talks in Damascus over the past two days with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

He said the talks, which lasted seven hours, fostered some proposals for reforming the Lebanese constitution with the aim of ending the 13-year-old civil war.

Syria sent troops into Beirut in February 1987 to try to end the fighting among rival factions.

But the burden of that commitment and the prospect of Lebanese presidential elections later this year prompted Syria to seek U.S. support in encouraging constitutional reforms that could bring peace to

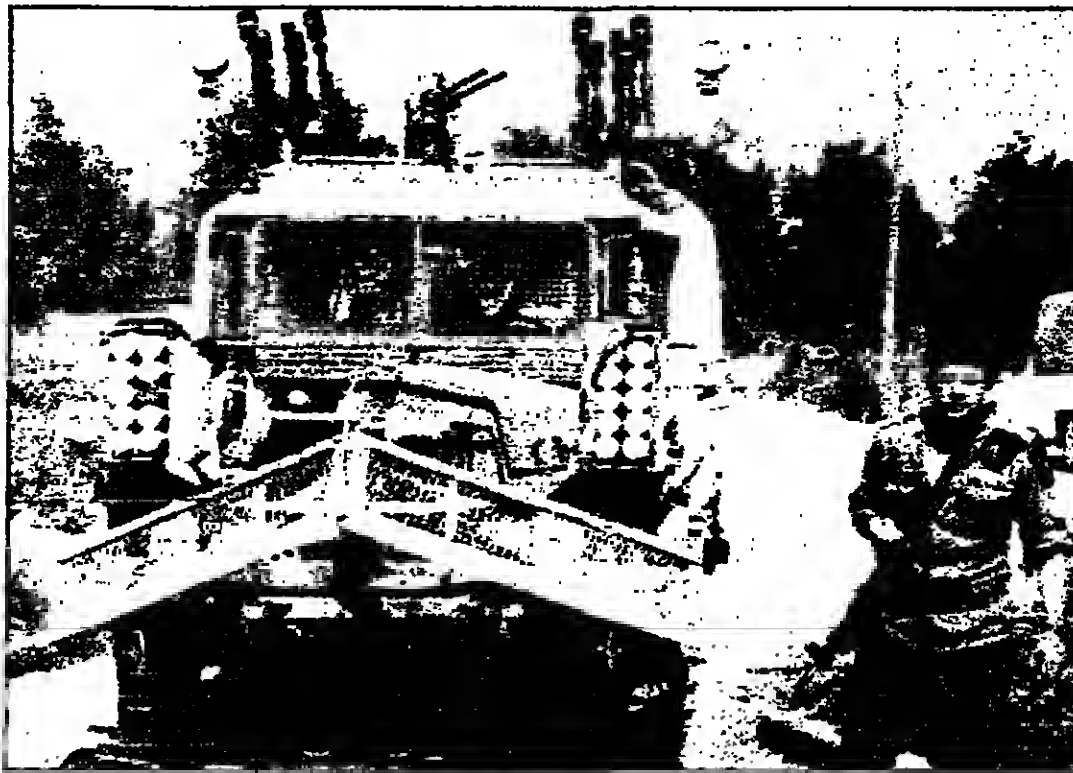
the country, the official said. He said the aim was to force Syria and the United States to agree on broad principles for constitutional reform that could then be written into law.

The Syrians view the United States as having taken the place of France and Britain as an influential force in Lebanese affairs, the official said.

For more than a year, the Lebanese factions have not talked with each other about political reforms but they have been talking separately with Syria and the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived in Israel Sunday night, is to visit Syrian President Hafez Al Assad later in the week and discuss the American initiative for Middle East peace.

Murphy discussed Lebanon with Khaddam in advance of Shultz's visit to Syria so that Shultz's talks could focus specifically on the Middle East peace plan, the U.S. official said.



The latest addition to the Israeli equipment against Palestinian protesters is a command vehicle equipped with smoke grenades, tear-gas launchers, rubber-bullet guns and marble shooters

Shultz wants clear Israeli reply to American peace plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sought a clear answer from Israeli leaders Monday to his Middle East peace initiative, but did not receive one.

Shultz expressed satisfaction after talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, telling reporters he emphasised the role of an international peace conference as a framework for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

An aide to Shamir told reporters: "We aren't singled out to give the first answer and I don't think we have to give the first answer. We don't have to throw it all out because of the idea of an international conference."

The secretary of state is due to visit Jordan and Syria Tuesday before returning to Israel.

Shultz told Israeli Television after his arrival Sunday he expected Israel and the Arabs to respond this week to his plan for a conference leading to direct talks on Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Shamir opposes the U.S. plan, endorsed by Peres, but has yet to deliver the response of his divided government. Neither has pushed for a cabinet vote for fear Israel would be accused of sabotaging the peace plan of its closest ally.

Asked by reporters if the plan would die for lack of support, Peres said: "This initiative has been pronounced dead so many times that to kill it again is nothing new."

"We have to ask ourselves again seriously if we want a peace process that is alive and well in the Middle East. That is the question."

Shamir rejects an international conference — attended by the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union —

for fear it would force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

He dismisses American assurances the conference would lack powers to coerce or veto agreements.

Shultz launched the plan two months ago amid unprecedented Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza. At least 136 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier have been killed in the 16-week-old uprising.

On Monday, Palestinians staged a general strike to protest against Shultz's visit to Israel and troops shot dead at least one protester during sporadic clashes.

In an interview Sunday with Israeli journalists, Shultz insisted Said and Abu Lughod, who are American professors, are not members of the PLO.

"Frankly, I am shocked that anybody should think I shouldn't talk to Americans like that," Shultz said.

Palestinians expressed support for a PLO ban on meeting with Shultz during his visit and said the U.S. initiative would fail unless the PLO were included in negotiations.

Shultz met Shamir and Peres separately, each for about two hours.

After meeting Shamir, Shultz said: "I was very pleased that we addressed mostly the direct (Arab-Israeli) negotiations that we would like to see take place and how in our initiative they might be structured."

"I was really delighted with the conversation," Shultz said. Israeli officials said that in both meetings, Shultz focused for the first time in five weeks of Middle East diplomacy on the substance of peace talks rather than the international conference procedure.

Shamir told reporters: "We had a very good and basic discussion."

We have analysed and discussed very essential issues. We have decided to continue with it in the next few days."

Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said the prime minister repeated his criticism of Shultz's meeting in Washington 10 days ago with two American members of the Palestine National Council.

Shamir regarded the meeting with Professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod as a breach of a 1975 U.S. commitment to Israel not to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"If Mr. Shultz wants to meet, the address of the Palestinian people is well known. It is the PLO," Hanna Siniara, editor of the Palestinian daily Al Fajr, said in an interview.

Mustafa Natshe, the former mayor of Hebron, said a Palestinian delegation would have to include PLO-nominated members from both within the occupied territories and outside. "We are with the decision of the PLO," he said.

Peres is convinced

After dining with Shultz Sunday night, Peres told Israeli Radio:

"I think the man is convinced in his mission. He knows the alternatives are very difficult. He will make the greatest effort to succeed."

Shultz told Israeli Television Sunday: "I think many people who have opposed this international conference have described it in a way that's different from what we proposed."

"They describe a conference that has authority, and will be the peace where people decide that your borders have to be here, there or elsewhere."

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Mideast conference lacks agreement

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday there was too much disagreement, among the parties directly concerned and within the Security Council, to convene an international Middle East peace conference. But in a reference to the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, he said events there had dramatically highlighted the urgent need for "the negotiation, in a manner acceptable to all the parties directly concerned, of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." Perez de Cuellar's comments were contained in a written report to the General Assembly in response to a resolution it adopted last December repeating calls dating back to 1983 for a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference. The report included the text of replies he received from the parties and from the Security Council president. The responses of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the PLO favoured the type of conference called for by the assembly. Israel and "one member of the council" — a clear reference to the United States — rejected that format and focused on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, free of imposed solutions.

'War of cities' explodes anew

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran hammered Iraq's vital oil centres with missiles and fighter-bombers Monday to avenge attacks on its major refineries in which it said at least 22 people were killed and 77 wounded.

Iraq vowed to level Iranian cities and fired a long-range Al Hussein missile into Isfahan as a 27-day truce in the five-week-old "war of the cities" went up in flames.

Iran also said its artillery bombarded Iraqi defences in the Kurdistan mountains of northeast Iraq, where Revolutionary Guards are locked in fierce battle with Iraqi forces in a large area around the strategic Lake Darbandikhan.

The upsurge of fighting in the Gulf war dimmed prospects of a breakthrough in United Nations efforts to engineer a cease-fire in line with the Security Council's July 20 resolution.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was scheduled to meet high-ranking Iranian and Iraqi envoys in New York later this week.

But there appeared to be few grounds for optimism with the hostilities expected to escalate as Iraq reeled from Iran's mushrooming offensive in Kurdistan and Tehran promising more "painful blows."

Iraq threatened Monday to level Iran's cities in retaliation. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said "Revolutionary Guards fired one long-range missile at Kirkuk's oil refinery Monday."

It said the missile strike was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on oil refineries in the northwestern city of Tabriz and the central city of Isfahan Sunday.

The agency reported that 22 civilians were killed and 77 wounded in Tabriz. There was no report of casualties Sunday in Isfahan, Persia's capital in the

16th century. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) also monitored in Cyprus, said the missile exploded in a residential neighbourhood in Kirkuk, killing or wounding many civilians.

The city, which has a population of around 200,000, has been repeatedly hit by Iranian missiles in the last two weeks.

The heavily guarded Kirkuk fields produce 1.5 million barrels of oil a day, more than half Iraq's output which is vital to Baghdad's war effort.

INA reported that the Iraqi army fired a missile into Isfahan at 6.40 p.m. (1440 GMT). It was the 12th missile the Iraqis said they have fired into that city since Feb. 29.

Altogether, both sides have unleashed more than 250 missiles into each other's population centres in that period. Iran has reported more than 1,150 civilians killed and 4,000 wounded. Iraq has given no specific figures, but reported hundreds of casualties.

INA said that Iranian fighter-bombers twice attacked a big petrochemical complex in the battered southern port city of Basra Monday. A military communiqué said the jets returned to their bases.

INA quoted an unidentified military spokesman in Baghdad as warning: "Because Iran insists on committing more crimes, we shall pound Iranian cities with missiles and other means until they are destroyed."

Iran had blamed Iraq for the latest resurgence of the "war of the cities" which began Feb. 29.

The Iranians are likely to mount more operations to keep the Iraqis off balance and for propaganda reasons in the run-up to elections for the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament, scheduled for Friday.

British MPs slam Israel

AMMAN (R) — Three British opposition members of parliament said Monday they had seen evidence of systematic Israeli brutality during a five-day visit to the occupied territories.

"The violence, the beating of men, women and children, the shooting to wound and to kill, the brutality is everywhere — and the Palestinian uprising is everywhere," said Clare Short.

Short, Marjorie Mowlam and Maria Fyfe, all of the Labour Party, spoke after a tour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip made at the invitation of the Arab League.

Mowlam said the group planned to see British Minister of State at the Foreign Office David Mellor, Labour shadow foreign secretary Gerald Kaufman and the Israeli ambassador after their return to London Tuesday.

"We will be saying loud and clear that the people there (in the occupied lands) consider the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) their sole, legitimate representative," she said. "They want peace, but they must have an independent Palestinian state and nothing less will do."

The three also intend to appeal to the Jewish community in Britain and arrange a speaking tour in the United States.

"We want the hypocrisy of the Israeli state to be known," Mowlam said. "They are talking about terrorism when they are acting as terrorists in the lands under their control."

Fyfe said they saw "dreadful" injuries to young boys in hospital. "It's no wonder they (the Israelis) want to keep the press out of the territories," she said.

S. Arabia may allow U.S. to inspect its missiles

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia will let American experts inspect medium-range missiles acquired from China if Washington guarantees Israel will not attack them, an Arab diplomat said Monday.

"I believe Saudi Arabia will allow inspection in return for a U.S. guarantee, but will not agree to withdraw the missiles," said the diplomat, who Reuter said was usually well-informed on Saudi policy.

Reuters quoted the diplomat as saying the deal would be agreed during U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's current Middle East peace trip. Shultz is expected to visit Riyadh Thursday.

Saudi leaders were very concerned about a possible Israeli pre-emptive strike against the Chinese ground-to-ground rockets, which can carry nuclear warheads, the diplomat said.

He said giving the United States inspection rights was aimed at limiting damage to Saudi-U.S. relations caused by Saudi Arabia's secret purchase of the CSS-2 missiles, which could reach Iran or Israel.

"Riyadh wants its ties with the

United States to stay as they were," the diplomat said. He said an inspection accord would confirm an assurance against Israeli attack given by Washington after Israeli officials said they could not tolerate the presence of such arms in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and China have said the missiles are for defence only and would not be armed with nuclear warheads.

China denies Israel deal

China Monday denied reports it had reached a secret arms deal with Israel to buy advanced missile warheads and other new weaponry.

"Such news is utterly groundless," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said in the one-sentence statement. She declined to elaborate.

Reports in the Sunday Times of London and Hong Kong's Sunday Morning Post said a team of five Israeli military scientists went to Peking in November and negotiated a deal to sell China

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AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day round table regional meeting opened in Amman Monday, to discuss questions related to movement and employment of workers and the effects of world economic recession on countries exporting or importing workers.

The recent developments in labour markets have had their negative influence on worker-exporter countries, and increased the challenge for officials, policy makers and planners in the labour fields, the minister noted.

He said that ILO programmes to help developing countries have been adversely affected since the early 1980s as a result of the world economic recession. "Until the ILO has been intent on solving the problem thorough round

ers through training."

Referring to the Gulf region, he said, it is currently employing nearly five million workers from Arab and Asian countries, constituting nearly half the work force of the Gulf countries as a whole, largely because Gulf states enjoy high income but have low-population density.

"This meeting has been called to allow delegates to exchange views and to consult on best measures to be taken to deal with problems encountered by the labour markets and to explore ways where the ILO can be of help in this matter," Barakat said.

Delegates taking part in the meeting came from India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Indonesia, Thailand, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tunisia and Jordan.

He said the two countries cooperate in the field of pharmaceutical industry and the production and distribution of medicine.

Reuter adds: On Sunday, Lebanon, Djibouti and the Palestine Red Crescent (PRC) asked the meeting in Amman for help in treating their sick amid war, famine and riots.

Fathi Arafat, head of the Cairo-based PRC, said he asked the Council of Arab Health Ministers for immediate aid for Palestinians hurt in the 16-week uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

Arafat, a brother of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the PRC needed ambulances, medical supplies and doctors.

Lebanon asked council members for medicine to fight tuberculosis and cancer and Djibouti requested food, water tanks and well-drilling equipment to aid famine victims.

"The almost 13-year-old war in Lebanon has made it hard for us to treat the increasing number of patients without help from our Arab brethren," Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Pierre Ziadeh said in a statement.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Information Monday opened a 10-day training course on preparing and conducting scientific research programmes in informational fields.

The course, which is attended by 30 officials from the Ministry of Information's various departments and six students from Yarmouk University, has been organised by the ministry's Developmental Information and Training Department (DITD).

Information Minister Hani Khasawneh addressed the opening session, underlining the process of research as a means of handling major problems confronting Jordanians in all fields of life.

"The challenges of the modern age require such scientific research and analysis and logic, to help reach proper solutions in economic and social sectors," the minister added.

DITD Director Issa Jahmani addressed the participants, reviewing the aims and objectives

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of the course which, he said, will improve their efficiency and skill in handling information covering economic and social issues.

The participants will hear lectures on the effect of information media on combating crime and pollution, promoting the spread of culture, ways of boosting the national economy and ensuring food security among other subjects.

They will also tour a number of research centres in Jordanian organisations.

DAMASCUS (Petra, J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud arrived in Damascus Monday at the head of an official delegation for a visit to Syria expected to last several days.

In a statement upon arrival Hmoud said that his talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabash will focus on means of promoting Jordanian-Syrian agricultural cooperation.

"The talks are considered complementary to the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee discussions and aim at achieving agricultural integration between Jordan and Syria," Hmoud said.

The minister and the Jordanian delegation will hold talks with officials and tour a number of agricultural projects.

Hmoud is accompanied by the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) Director-General Ghazi Abu Haseeb and a number of ministry officials.

On the eve of his departure to Syria the minister was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the Jordanian markets will again witness a bountiful supply of agricultural crops and fruit in two weeks time.

He said that crops will be coming to the markets from the Jordan Valley and the rainfed regions, close to the valley.

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The recent rainy weather and the cold spell that affected Jordan over the past month, damaged some types of winter crops which resulted in the decline of production and the disappearance of certain types of crops from the markets, the minister said.

He added that the weather conditions were also responsible for a delay in planting summer crops in the higher regions of the country.

"This is a transitional period between winter and summer, during which Jordan normally faces a shortage of certain types of crops," the minister noted.

He said that most of the crops on the markets are grown in Jordan.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Fourth Jordanian pharmacists conference will open in Amman on Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to an official announcement Monday.

The announcement was made by Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) President Taiseer Al-Himsi at a press conference during which he gave details on the coming meeting, which will discuss 34 papers summing up research work at the pharmacology faculties of the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and by Jordanian pharmaceutical companies.

Himsi said that nearly 500 pharmacists, who are to take part in the two-day meeting, will hear addresses by professors from

coming meeting, which will discuss 34 papers summing up research work at the pharmacy faculties of the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and by Jordanian pharmaceutical companies.

Himsi said that nearly 500 pharmacists, who are to take part in the two-day meeting, will hear addresses by professors from

Jordanian universities, the Health Ministry and drug manufacturers in Jordan, as well as an Iraqi researcher.

Himsi paid tribute to the steadfastness of the Palestinian pharmacists in the occupied Arab territory and said, they are helping to alleviate Palestinian people's sufferings despite their meagre means.

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan Monday paid a visit to Karak governorate during which he met with the Karak governor and the mayor and inspected a number of water stations in the governorate.

The minister stressed the ministry's policy aimed at unifying the efforts of all government organisations responsible

Dakhqan also announced that the ministry will start linking houses in Karak city with a new sewerage network as of the end of this month.

The ministry will give priority during this year to projects concerned with providing drinking water to a number of villages in the governorate, the minister said.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Public Works and Housing, Shafigh Zawiadeh, left Amman Sunday to attend the eleventh session of the United Nations' Human Settlements Committee which is due to be held on April 6 to 12 in New Delhi.

Zawiadeh, who will head the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, will participate in the discussion of two main topics: the activities concerning the year for housing the homeless and world strategy for housing until the year 2000.

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Pakistan War College Monday called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its vice president and other officials who briefed them on the RSS's development and activities.

The delegation members later toured the different sections of the society and inspected the solar energy unit, the building research centre, and were briefed on their programmes.

The visitors also watched a documentary film featuring the development of the RSS since its establishment in 1970.

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.)—A Finnish press delegation Monday met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin for a briefing on the Middle East situation.

Dudin spoke about the sufferings of the Palestinian people over the past 20 years as a result of the Israeli occupation, and its intransigence with regards to permanent solutions and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

Dudin also spoke about the pressure being exerted on the Palestinians by Israel to force them to abandon their homeland.

The current uprising in the

She said that as of the end of 1988 there will be two weekly chartered flights from Helsinki to Aqaba bringing in tourists to Jordan. At present tourists are coming on board the Royal Jordanian aircraft, which are operating weekly flights between the two countries.

The delegation members who arrived here last Sunday will end their visits on Saturday, according to the official.

Dudin meets U.S. senator

Also Monday, Dudin conferred with a U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and his accompanying delegation, who are currently on a tour of the Middle East region.

Dudin spoke on the current uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab population.

Later, the senator and his delegation called at the Palestinian refugee camp of Baka'a and inspected services offered to the residents by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and the Jordanian government.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team of gynecologists at Al Basir Hospital performed a Caesarean section on a 27-year-old Jordanian woman who gave birth to twin test-tube baby boys Monday.

One of the gynecologists who performed the operation told the Jordan Times that the "in vitro fertilisation was not performed at Al Basir Hospital, the woman was admitted to Al Basir Hospital one week ago because she was carrying twins."

According to the gynecologist, the boys and the mother are in a healthy condition and the children's weights are 2.75 kilograms and 2.25 kilograms respectively.

PRINCESS ALIA: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Monday, opened an art exhibition by Samer Al Tabbaa' at the National Gallery of Fine Arts. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Alia attended the opening ceremony. On display are 45 abstract paintings.

TV PRODUCTION: An Arab committee charged with studying the setting up of an Arab company for television production at the Arab and international levels will hold its two-day meetings in Amman Tuesday to discuss measures for establishing the company.

HINDAWI TOURS AQABA: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi Monday resumed his inspection tour of Aqaba and visited a number of economic installations there. The minister visited the Aqaba Port where he discussed with its officials ways of developing work and services at the port.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL: The Arab League Council has approved the reelection of Awn Khasawneh, director of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry, as member of the International Law Committee at the Arab level.

FAYEZ INVITED: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez has received an invitation to attend the international popular conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad on May 25. The invitation was delivered to Fayez Monday by Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafel Jasem Hussein.

CAMPING ENDS: About 200 students from various schools in Balqa governorate Monday ended their scout camps organised by the Education Department in the governorate. The five-day camps were aimed at enhancing self-reliance, cooperation and the love of community service among the students.

EYE TESTING: A specialised training course in ultrasonic eye testing began Monday at the University of Jordan Hospital for 25 doctors from the public and private medical institutions in Jordan. Doctors from Bonn University's Ophthalmic Hospital in West

TRUCK KILLS BOY: A boy of eight died Sunday after being hit by a pick up truck on the Tareq Ibn Ziad Street in Zarqa.

EXPATRIATES CONFERENCE: The Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat, announced Monday that the fourth expatriates conference will be held in Amman in the middle of July at the Palace of Culture at the Al Hussein Sports City.

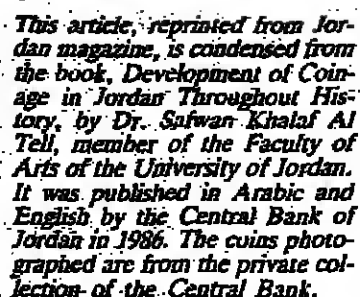
AFS MEETING: The general assembly of the Arab Federation of Shipping (AFS) ended its three-day meetings here Monday. Participants in the meeting, representing 16 maritime companies from various Arab companies, sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein at the end of their meeting in which they expressed their thanks and appreciation for his continuing support of joint Arab action.

PASTURE LAND: The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mrewid Al Tal met Sunday with the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) director in Jordan to discuss bilateral cooperation in the development of Jordanian pasture land. The JCO has prepared a expansion plan for pastures which will be implemented in cooperation with the UNDP and local farmers.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Korean 15:50 Programme review 15:55 Children's programmes 16:05 In Search of the Past 16:30 Spirit Bay 17:40 Local programme 17:30 Basketball 19:00 Message from Oman 19:10 Local programme 19:00 Programme review 20:00 World News 20:30 Arabic Series 21:30 Cultural seminar 22:00 Varieties programme 22:00 News summary in Arabic 22:10 Programme contd. PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 des chiffres et des lettres 19:00 News in French 19:15 French varieties, Un DB de plus 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 No place like Home 21:10 Stand by - Light Camera Action! 22:00 News in English 22:30 Murder She Wrote 23:10 Rich Man, Poor Man		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * Art exhibition by Mohammed Bouls and Mounira Al Tounissi at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19). * First School Arts Exhibition at Almad Tounjan School. Open during school hours until June 1988. * From Gutenberg to Electronics: Der al Tili (until 11 April) Goethe Institute. * An art exhibition by Mohammed Abu Zreik at the Alia Art Gallery. * Exhibition of Rocks and Minerals in Jordan at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (runs through April 5). * Books and Medical Appliances exhibited at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Jordan (runs through April 5). * Exhibition entitled "Groundwater and Mineral Resources in Jordan - examples of Jordanian-German Cooperation" at the Ministry of Energy (until April 15). * As an exhibition by Samir Tabbar' at the National Museum of Fine Arts. * Plastic art exhibition by students at the University of Jordan. * Exhibition of Palestinian Folklore and Books on Palestine at the University of Jordan.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT <i>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.</i> ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 09:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:15 Doha, Agaba (RJ) 10:30 Kuwait (RJ) 10:30 Cairo (RJ) 11:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 11:10 Larnaca (RJ) 11:15 Istanbul (RJ) 11:30 New York, Vienna (RJ) 11:50 Paris, Brussels (RJ) 19:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 20:40 Tripoli (RJ) 20:45 Rome (RJ)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence 1941 771283 Civil Defence Qwaishneh 770733 Civil Defence Dera Alia 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630241 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 630241 Traffic police 896390/1 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771288 Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08)533040 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. George Sahouri 894546 Dr. Tayyar Sa'd 777336 Dr. Tawfiq Oub'ain 623029 Dr. Khaleel Abdo 799079 Pina pharmacy 661912 Fardous pharmacy 778365 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Netrosh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shamsani pharmacy 637660 TAXIS: Karnak taxi 668761 Oranid Palace taxi 667079 Furst taxi 682182 Rashid taxi 668186 Commodore taxi 662322 Tayche taxi 622051 Faisal taxi 622051 San Rock taxi 813801 IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Hayek 275925 Sharas' pharmacy 775825 ZARQA: Dr. Farah Aqrabawi (-) Khalaf pharmacy 985417 GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642211 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz 07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Virtuosos 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Newsweek 08:00 World News 08:20 24 Hours Summary 08:30 Newsline 08:40 Turning over New Leaves 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Counter- point 10:00 World News 10:30 24 Hours: New Summary 10:30 Journey Round My People 10:45 Network U.K. 11:00 World News 11:45 Reflec- tions 11:15 Tech Talk 11:30 Best on Record 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 The Seven Ages of Man 13:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 13:30 Sports International 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Wirepage 14:25 A Letter from Scotland 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Multitrack 15:15 Top 20 News Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:30 24 Hours: New Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 17:45 Virtuosos 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 A Joyous Good News 18:30 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:45 The World To- day 20:00 World News 20:45 A Letter from Scotland 20:15 Citizens 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Development '88 22:00 Outlook, open- ing with News Summary		SERVICE CLUBS The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Lions Philanthropic Club. Meetings ev- ery second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philanthropic Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Annan, Man, Eighth Circle. Tel. 516334, 817534.		PRAYER TIMES 04:53 Fajr 06:14 (Sunrise) Duha 12:36 Dhuhr 16:13 'Asr 18:43 Maghrib 20:23 Isha		MONEY EXCHANGE Monday rates <i>Local sell/buy rates in ffs</i> Belgian franc 96.1/ 97.5 Dutch guilder 179.2/ 182.1 French franc 39.3/ 40.3 Italian lire 21.1/ 27.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 268.7/ 273.2 Swedish crown 56.9/ 57.7 Swiss franc 244.7/ 248.8 U.K. sterling pound 629.6/ 638.8 U.S. dollar 353/ 357.4 W. German mark 301/ 304.4	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9540 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Just a Minute 11:00 Good Old Days 12:00 News Summary 12:45 30-Minute Theatre 13:00 News Summary 13:45 Pop Session Contd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:15 Instrumentals 14:30 30 Minute Theatre 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:45 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Pop Talk 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:45 Top Ten 18:30 Music 19:00 News Desk 19:30 Date with a Star		CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawerideh, Tel. 62440. De la Saille Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Lawerideh, mass in Italian lan- guage, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623566. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Re- deemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 623383, chaplain's residence, tel. 601339. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashra- fieh, Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho- dox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771731. Amman International Church (Inter- denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsani, Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, An- tibic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Sir 811295. Rabwah Congregation, (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) French Cultural Centre 637003 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:00 Agaba (RJ) 11:45 Rome (RJ) 11:45 Tripoli (RJ) 12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 12:45 Madrid (RJ) 13:00 Geneva, London (RJ) 13:45 Istanbul (RJ) 14:00 Larnaca (RJ) 20:35 Kuwait (RJ) 20:40 Dhahran (RJ) 22:15 Cairo (RJ) 22:15 Damascus (RJ) 22:40 Bangkok (RJ)		WEATHER <i>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</i> Even though there will be a drop in temperature, it will remain warm and dry, with southeasterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be nor- thery moderate and calm sea.	
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 720, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 13210 KHz 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA USA 10:40 News 10:50 Focus 10:50 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 News 22:30 Newsline America 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 00:10 World Report		WORKSHOP * A specialized workshop on medical research, at University of Jordan Man- power Development Centre (runs until April 10).		MARKET PRICES <i>Upper/lower price in ffs per kg</i> Apple (French) 420 / 360 Apple (Greek) 470 / 400 Banana 300 / 240 Banana (Mukammara) 300 / 240 Beans 480 / 400 Beans (broad) 340 / 280 Cabbage 170 / 140 Cauliflower 200 / 180 Cauliflower (wister) 200 / 150 Cucumbers 240 / 180 Eggplant (large) 220 / 180 Eggplant (small) 250 / 180 Garlic (dry) 100 / 80 Garlic (green) 180 / 120 Lemons 300 / 240 Marrow 300 / 240 Onion (green) 200 / 160 Onion (dry) 280 / 240 Oranges (local) 230 / 180 Oranges (Shamsani) 230 / 220 Peas 620 / 540 Pepper (hot) 620 / 540 Pepper (sweet) 230 / 280 Potato 120 / 80 Spinach 80 / 50 Tomatoes 280 / 120			

Development of coinage in Jordan throughout history

By Dr. Safwan Khalaf Al Tell



This article, reprinted from Jordan magazine, is condensed from the book, *Development of Coinage in Jordan Throughout History*, by Dr. Safwan Khalaf Al Tell, member of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Jordan. It was published in Arabic and English by the Central Bank of Jordan in 1986. The coins photographed are from the private collection of the Central Bank.

HISTORIANS and numismatists share the belief that it is possible to trace the history of governments and regions through a study of their coinage. In Jordan, the coins used throughout the various periods of its history serve as vivid signposts marking the course of a political, economic and cultural development that extends more than 2,000 years into the past.

Ever since they were invented by the Greeks, coins have been utilised to organise economic relationships and define the principle of profit and loss in societies. The state, then-as now, established its own financial system, issued its own coinage and, thus, was directly associated with its material, shape, size, weight, value and distribution.

The earliest coins were nothing more than ingots of "pale gold," silver or copper, irregular in weight and indefinite in value. At a later stage, with the introduction of true coinage in Greece, stamps were added to indicate the authority which issued the coin and defined its value. These coins were made of electrum — a natural amalgam of gold and silver — to which was affixed "the seal of the king," to guarantee both the metal's quality and its weight. The method of affixing the seal was simple: The metal, placed over an intaglio of the royal emblem, was hammered to receive a punch impression on one side and a relief design on the other.

In the sixth century B.C., the gold alloy was successfully separated from the silver and the coin acquired a circular shape. It also became thicker and heavier and showed a different image on each side. During the fourth century B.C., a number of Greek cities agreed to issue a common currency, instead of each issuing its own, which ultimately led to uniformity in the currencies. Thus, Greek coins became well-known in the Near East and in their abundant circulation rivalled those of Persia.



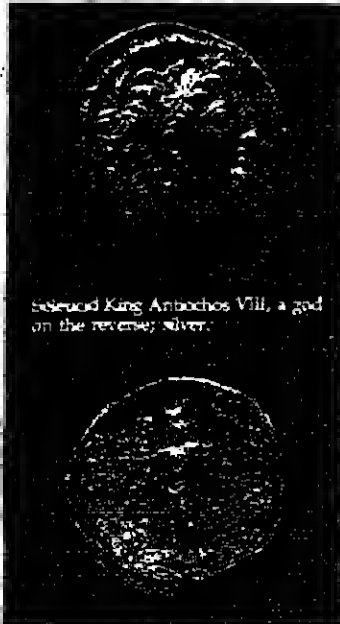
Alexander the Great, Zeus on the reverse, silver.

In studying the wide variety of coinage found in the land of Jordan, it is helpful to have some understanding of the diverse powers that imposed their authority on the Near East. Throughout the millennia since the fourth century B.C., the region was ruled directly or indirectly by more than 250 different kings, emperors, caliphs, princes, sultans and governors, each of whom issued new coinage. Within its geographical context, Jordan's history is closely linked to that of the Arab east as a whole, and the ancient coins that have been found in Jordan are similar to those found in the lands that surround it.

Alexander the Great
Because of its strategic location on one of the great crossroads of the world, Jordan through the ages was subjected to one conquest after another, as powerful empires invaded the area in an unceasing struggle for domination of the Mediterranean basin. For many centuries during biblical times, kingdoms rose and fell, hegemony changed hands, and the entire region remained in a state of flux... until the arrival of Alexander the Great.

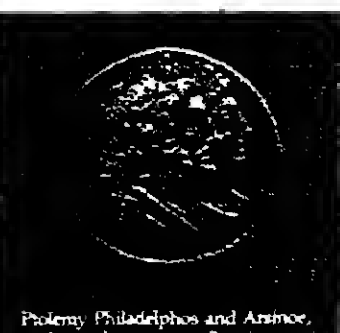
In 331 B.C., Alexander's armies swept swiftly through the entire Near East and introduced Hellenistic culture and its coinage to the region. This historic Greek expansion removed the barriers between Mesopotamia and Persia on the one hand and the Mediterranean on the other, which allowed the resources of the two civilisations to intermingle. The size of the empire also led to the union of autonomous cities into small states, which were given authority over the issuing of coins. As a result, while the minting of coins increased, they became uniform in style. The various coins of this period, for instance, bear the portraits of kings, along with religious symbols and the names of the city mints in Greek.

Upon the death of Alexander in 323 B.C., his two generals, Ptolemy and Seleucus, divided the Greek state between them. Jordan, Palestine and Egypt fell to Ptolemy, who declared himself king and struck gold coins bearing his image and that of his wife. In Syria, Seleucus also proclaimed his monarchy. Among the gold and silver coins issued by the long succession of Seleucid kings (from 312 to 69 B.C.) are some of remarkable beauty, bearing the royal portrait on one side and the image of a god on the other.



Seleucid King Antiochus VIII, a god on the reverse, silver.

A similar succession of Ptolemaic monarchs (from 323 to 30 B.C.) produced a number of coins that are unique and of historical significance. They were the first coins to be regularly struck in Egypt in large numbers and in different metals, including gold, silver and copper. Silver coins with their multiples were the basis of the Ptolemaic monetary system, but many gold coins of fine quality also were issued. Gold and silver currency was used for international trade, while the circulation of bronze coins filled the public's need for small change. Among the important Ptolemaic mints were those of Alexandria, Sidon, Tyre, Acre, Jaffa, Gaza and Amman.



Ptolemy Philadelphos and Arsinoe, eagle on the reverse, silver.

On the first coins of his reign, Ptolemy I featured the bust of Alexander. Later on, he substituted his own image and, on the reverse side of the coin, put Alexander, or either an elephant-drawn cart or eagle on a thunderbolt. On some of the coins issued by the second king, Ptolemy Philadelphos, the bust of his wife Arsinoe appears. Occasionally, the profiles of husband and wife are shown together with the words, "the two lovers." The last Ptolemaic ruler, Cleopatra VII, issued silver and bronze coins bearing her image alongside that of her son Ptolemy XIV on one side, and a cornucopia or eagle on the other.

Nabataean coinage
During the second century B.C., meanwhile, the Arab Nabataeans had moved from the Arabian Peninsula into southern Jordan. Establishing Petra as the capital of their new kingdom, they succeeded by 83 B.C. in extending their political borders and cultural influence as far north as Damascus, despite repeated Roman attempts at occupation. The first coins issued by the Nabataeans were in silver and copper and similar to Greek coins. Later, Obadas II (62-47 B.C.) introduced a new coin shape and also, for the first time, inscriptions in Nabataean. Images of the king or queen or both continued to be featured on the face of the coins, with the reverse showing one symbol or another — a cornucopia or eagle, a god or goddess, or the palm of a hand.



Nabataean King Aretas IV, Queen Heliodora on the reverse, silver.

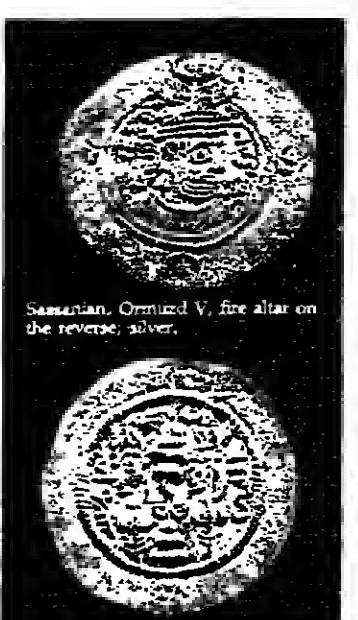
Among the most famous Nabataean kings were Rebel II and Aretas IV, their coins bear the phrase, "King of the Nabataeans, whom his people love." In 63 B.C., with Pompey's conquest of Syria, Palestine and Jordan, Rome gained a sizeable empire in the Near East. The Nabataean kingdom, however, remained in control of its territories for almost another 150 years — until 106 A.D., when Trajan succeeded in penetrating its mountain stronghold at Petra. Of the coins issued by Trajan, after his annexation of the Nabataean kingdom to the newly created Provincia Arabia, is one with the unusual but fitting image of a camel.

One of the most interesting coinage periods in Jordan was the first century B.C. It was during this period that Pompey formed the Decapolis, a league of ten autonomous cities granted special status in the political, economic and cultural spheres. A number of these cities were situated in Jordan, especially in the north, among them Gadara (Umm Qais), Arabila (Irbid), Pella (Tabaqaat Fahl), Gerasa (Jerash) and Philadelphia (Amman). This geographical and political structuring of the Decapolis emphasises the Roman desire to separate the Syrian province from Palestine and the Nabataean kingdom to the south.



Roman Emperor Trajan, camel on the reverse, silver.

The actual issue of coins during the Roman period was under the direction of special magistrates, who controlled the state supplies of metal in bar form. The Roman Senate held authority over the issue of copper and bronze coins, as indicated by the letters S.C. (*Senatus Consulto*), while the emperor held control over the issue of gold and silver coins. All coins, however, usually bore the portrait of the emperor on the obverse and the city-goddess on



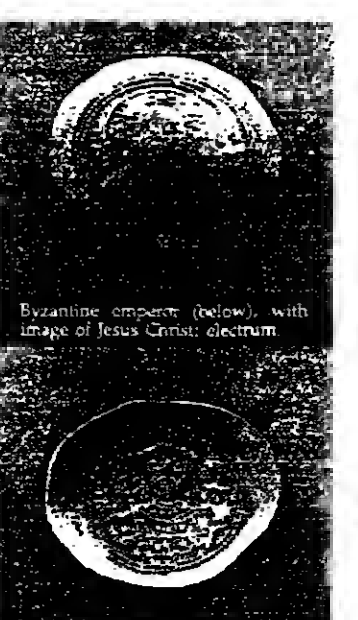
Sassanian, Ormizd V, fire altar on the reverse, silver.

the reverse. Also represented were religious, economic and cultural symbols.

Roman monopoly
In the Near East, where the multitude of states and cities possessed a long tradition of issuing coins, imperial Rome contented itself with maintaining a monopoly over coinage in precious metals (gold and silver) and with defining rates of exchange between the imperial coinage and the main currencies in the east. It granted a number of the more important cities — such as Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), Damascus and Beirut — the right to administer their own affairs, including the issuance of bronze coins bearing an abbreviated form of the city name.

The Romans also transcended the usual conventions in coinage and introduced inscriptions of political, religious and social significance, such as harmony, faith, liberty, colony, fertility. Unlike Hellenistic coins, which seldom changed in design, the Roman coins reveal innovation and variety. While the image and name of the reigning emperor are a standard feature on the coin face, many different images appear on the reverse: Religious symbols (gods or temples), or the emblems of cities (walls, towers, ships, fish, birds or animals). These provide a rich source of information on the political, religious and social characteristics of the cities that minted the coins.

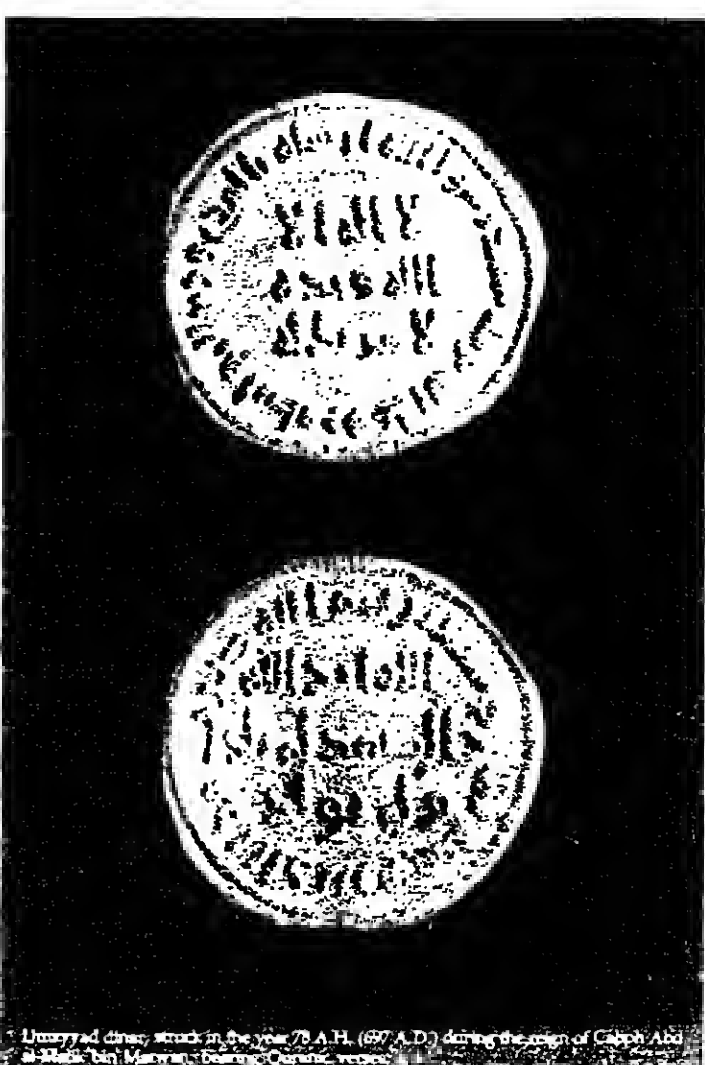
Three centuries later, after a succession of some 45 emperors who all issued coins bearing their image, the Roman empire was split. In 324, the Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and assumed control of the Near East. He moved from Rome to Constantinople, where he established his Byzantine capital, and proceeded to issue new coins.



Byzantine emperor (Theodosius I) with image of Jesus Christ, electrum.

The Byzantine coins, which were minted in gold, silver and copper, circulated throughout the empire up until the seventh century and the advent of Islam. Their markings, in line with the religion of the new state, were perceptibly Christian. The imagery is distinctively expressive in style and decorative detail. The emperors are shown bearing religious emblems, such as the cross, and the robes they wear are appropriately embellished to reflect their royal status.

A new power emerges
In the seventh century, a new force emerged from the Arabian Peninsula. The Prophet Muhammad had united the Arabs under the banner of Islam and the historic expansion of the world's third monotheistic religion had begun. In 636, after Muslim forces defeated the Byzantines in



Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik, (672-681) with image of Caliph, gold.

the battle of Yarmouk, Jordan, Syria and Palestine came under Arab control.

Islam was now the major power in the Near East, and the entire region entered a period of dramatic change, not only in religion, but politically and culturally as well. The first rulers of the new Islamic State were the Umayyads, who in 661 established their capital in Damascus. In the mid-eighth century, they were overthrown by the Abbasids, who transferred the Muslim seat of government to Baghdad. Eventually, internal divisions within the Abbasid caliphate led to a period of political upheaval and the emergence of a number of smaller dynasties and principalities in various parts of the Islamic world.

Under Islam, the Arab World developed into a unified entity, with its own distinctive political, cultural and economic system. Its coinage, in style and epigraphic content, became properly Arabic and Islamic; and, except for some minor modifications, this Islamic coin-type has remained constant up to the present.

Coinage issued under the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates was basically a continuation of the ancient coin types that had circulated in the Arabian Peninsula and Syria before Islam. The Arabs introduced no changes in the monetary system; they continued the old minting techniques and issued coins with specific weights in gold, silver and copper, which were circular in shape and bore dates, legends and verses from the Holy Koran.

The three monetary units of Islamic coinage were the *dinar* (in gold), the *dirham* (in silver) and the *fals* (in copper or bronze). The first coins, while modelled after earlier Arab and Byzantine types, show specific changes of an Arabising nature. New religious inscriptions or other epigraphic markings appear; words such as *baraka* (blessing), *tayyib* (good) and *was* (full weight) are included; the caliph's name and the date of the mint are shown — all engraved in Arabic. The most innovative departure from Byzantine style is the portrayal of the caliph as a sword-girded, standing figure.

Definitive Arabisation of style, however, was achieved under the reign of Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik bin Marwan in 697. His great coin reform resulted in the complete suppression of iconographic representations and the emergence of purely epigraphic coins bearing Koranic verses and historical legends. The inscriptions were arranged as follows:

Field of one side: the *Shahada* (There is no God but God alone: He has no partner). Around the edge: Part of Koran IX:33 (*Muhammed is the Apostle of God whom He sent with the direction and true religion that he may cause it to appear superior to every other religion*).

Field of the other side: Koran CXII (*God is one; God is the eternal; He begets not, nor is He begotten*). Around the edge: In

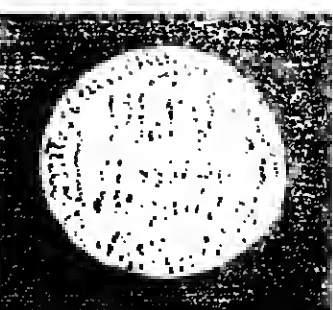
the name of God; this *dinar* was struck in the year...

The weight standard of the gold *dinar*, as established by Abd al-Malik, was 4.25 grammes, issued in three denominations: The *dinar*, the half-*dinar* (*nisf*) and the third-*dinar* (*thuluth*). The silver *dirham*, which bore the same legends as those of the *dinar*, weighed 2.97 grammes.

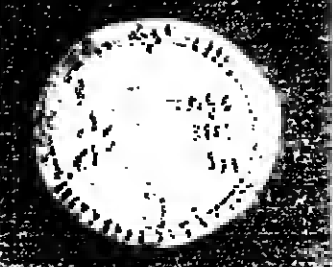
The purely epigraphic copper coins appeared later and were not uniform in size, weight or markings. All, however, bore a religious inscription and sometimes also the mint, date and name of the issuing authority. Copper coins were used in petty commercial transactions and fluctuated from 2 to 5 grammes in weight. The rate of exchange between copper and silver coins, although legally established at 48 to 1, also fluctuated.

The Abbasid dynasty (749-1258) made no significant changes in Islamic coinage. The shape, weight and epigraphic content remained the same and the legends continued to be written in simple Arabic Kufic characters. In the ninth and tenth centuries, however, when the independent dynasties emerged, they issued new coins which varied in epigraphic content.

The presence of the Crusaders during the 11th and 12th centuries, while of historical import, had no influence on the pattern of coinage in the Near East. More



Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid, minted in 197 A.H. (773 A.D.), gold.



Abbasid Caliph al-Mu'tasim, minted in 228 A.H. (843 A.D.), gold.

vital to their existence, as aliens in a foreign land, was the string of formidable fortresses they built — among them Karak and Shouhah in Jordan — from which they wielded control over the caravan trade and pilgrimage routes. In 1187, when the Crusaders were decisively overpowered by the Ayyubid leader Salah al-Din, the region returned to Arab hands again.

In the mid-13th century, the Mamlukes overthrew the Ayyubid dynasty and proceeded to rule the region for almost two and a half centuries. The coins minted by the Mamluke sultan differ in some respects from the

earlier type. Their gold pieces are larger, reaching 6 grammes in weight, and bear inscriptions written in Arabic Naskhi script instead of Kufic. Their silver and bronze coins are distinguished by geometric, concentric or star-shaped designs. An entirely new feature is the blazon, as in the Sultan Baybar's lion passant which appears on his coins and also exists on one of the towers of Karak castle.

The Mamlukes, in turn, gave way to Ottoman conquest in 1517; and for the next 400 years, the entire Near East remained part of the Ottoman empire. Coinage during that period, issued in gold, silver, copper and zinc in



Mamluke Sultan Baybars (1260-1293 A.D.), gold.

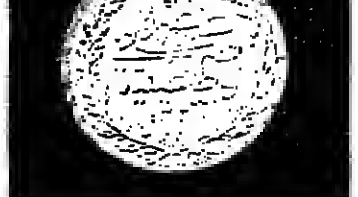
great quantity by thirty different Ottoman sultans, was circulated by the Arabs in Jordan, Palestine and other countries of the region. The epigraphic content of these coins consisted of the sultan's name on the obverse; and on the reverse, a laudatory legend, along with the date and place of mint. From sultan to sultan, the inscriptions invariably differ, but otherwise the Ottoman coins remain consistent in style. Their distinguishing feature is the highly artistic use of the Arabic Naskhi, Thuluth and Rak'a scripts, with the letters intricately interlocked into an graceful rendering of the sultan's name and title.

Of importance during the Ottoman period was the gradual expansion of the monetary system. In the 19th century, during the reign of Sultan Abd al-Majid, new types of gold coins (*Majidi*) were minted in plaster (*qirsh*) denominations of 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500. The copper coin, whose basic unit was the *para*, was issued in various denominations ranging from 1 to 40.

In 1916, Sultan Muhammad Rashid issued a law for the reorganisation of coinage, under which all currencies were valued



Ottoman Sultan Abd al-Majid, minted in 1327 A.H. (1909), gold.



Ottoman Sultan Abd al-Majid, minted in 1327 A.H. (1909), gold.

in relation to gold, with the *piaster* as the basic monetary unit. Piasters in denominations of 2, 5 and 10 were minted in silver and the 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500 piasters in gold. The weight of the 25-piaster piece was one gramme of gold and the 500-piaster coin was 36 grammes, all with a 91.6 per cent standard of fineness.

Arab independence

The Arab people, meanwhile, had launched their struggle for freedom from the Ottomans. Unifying their ranks under the Arab National Movement, they chose the Grand Sharif Al-Hussein bin Ali, the Hashemite guardian of the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina, as their leader. And on June 6, 1916, Sharif Al-Hussein proclaimed the Great Arab Revolt against the Ottomans.

In the same year, Sharif Hussein issued a coinage inscribed with "The Arab Hashemite Government" on the obverse and his name and the mint date on the reverse. The first Hashemite coins were minted in various denominations which included the gold *dina* 20-piaster and 10-piaster silver coins, and copper coins in small units.

After the end of World War I instead of gaining the independence they fought to achieve, the Arabs were again subjected to foreign domination. A division of their lands by the Allies in spheres of influence put Jordan, Palestine and Iraq under British mandate and Syria and Lebanon under French control. Thus, British currency, including the gold pound, began circulating in Jordan and Palestine alongside Egyptian currency.

In 1927, however, the British Currency Council was established and a Palestinian coinage was issued. These coins, in copper and zinc in various denominations, are inscribed with the symbolic olive branch, peace and bear legends in Arabic, English and Hebrew.

Meanwhile, the Emir Abdullah, second son of Sharif Al-Hussein, had made his successful move to assert Arab independence in Jordan. In March 1921, he had entered Amman with forces, established the Transjordan, and won independence from British Arab national entity. Two years later, the British mandate ended, and on May 25, 1946, the Emir became the Hashemite King of Jordan, a sovereign fully independent state with King Abdullah as its constitutional monarch.

Palestinian coins and money continued to circulate in Jordan and Palestine until 1948 when the Jordanian Currency Council was founded and issued the first specifically Jordanian currency. The earliest Jordanian coins, consisting of a copper and nickel alloy or bronze, bore the name of the Hashemite King of Jordan and the date of issue, while the paper money, in denominations ranging from half-dinar to 50 dinars, bears the image of King Abdullah.

In 1964, the Central Bank of Jordan replaced the currency council and assumed responsibility for the issue and regulation of Jordanian currency, in accordance with international specifications. Since its inception, the CB



Palestinian 1927, copper and nickel alloy.



Palestinian 1927, copper and nickel alloy.

has been supplying two issues annually of both notes and coins in various denominations. It also issues special commemorative coins in gold and silver.

The first notes to bear the image of His Majesty King Hussein were issued in 1965 and include the name of the Central Bank of Jordan. Then in 1970, new coins engraved with the portrait of King Hussein were minted in copper, nickel and zinc, in various denominations based on the *dirham* (100 fils) and its fractions. On the face is the bust of His Majesty, encircled with the legend in Arabic: *Al-Hussein bin Talal, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*. The reverse is engraved with olive branches, the name of the Kingdom, the denominational value of the coin and the date of its issue, in both Arabic and English. A new denomination of one-quarter *dina* (250 fils), also issued, bears an identical image of His Majesty on its face, but with an olive tree and circular wreath on the reverse.

Thus, the historical process of coin continues, carrying on the story of man... until some future age when a new medium of exchange is introduced.

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A sad, old warrior

ISRAELI Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement two days ago that "basically, especially with the Gaza Strip, we see relative tranquility, with here and there outbursts of hostility, but they are coped with very effectively," is a sad comment on the state of the Israeli leadership, if not the Jewish people as a whole. It is tempting for Israeli leaders to see the Palestinian uprising as an isolated outburst by young rowdies. But it is wrong, and it is naive for Israeli or American leaders to address the uprising in terms of how to "restore order" or "ensure security."

Mr. Rabin may like to think that there is relative tranquility in the Palestinian land his country occupies, but we would have thought that our Semitic brothers in Israel would be among the first to appreciate the stirrings and manifestations of national identity. There were many who also said that things are relatively tranquil in the Jewish ghettos of medieval and 19th Century Europe, but beneath the tranquility was a massive sense of unfulfilled national identity, which finally led to the creation of the state of Israel in the wake of the Nazi horrors.

Mr. Rabin, and Jews all over the world, should look at the Palestinian uprising and see the face of a Palestinian nation that seeks to manifest itself in a peaceful state, and in a normal society. Such an identity — like the Jewish identity at the turn of the century — cannot be suppressed by force of arms. Nor can it be subjugated to what the people of Israel like to profess as a higher moral claim to statehood, security and a normal life. The suffering of the Jewish people under Nazism cannot culminate in a Jewish state which itself denies the identity and nationalism of the Palestinian Arabs.

If Mr. Rabin and others of his emotional frenzy would like to make believe the Palestinian uprising can be controlled by a show of force, they are free to play their own emotional games, and to live in their own make-believe world. They would do well, however, to appreciate the lessons of their own Jewish history, lessons that assert the inevitability of national will and the futility of military force in the face of a human being who will insist on manifesting a genuine political and national identity. Mr. Rabin is a sad figure — an old warrior who cannot stop fighting, and who cannot admit the finite efficacy of weapons.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shamir's peace

IN Israel's view, peace means military occupation of all the Palestinian land and any other Arab land it could occupy in the future. For Israel, peace means possessing a great military might that can enable it to impose its hegemony on all the region without any opposition or any protest by the Arabs or other parties. For this reason, Israel continues to reject all efforts designed to establish peace based on justice and at the same time expects the world to support its expansionist policies based on aggression and injustice. We can see Israel's position from Shamir's initial response to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals on the first day of his visit to Israel. We can see this Israeli position clarified in Shamir's reaction to Shultz's meeting with two Palestinian Americans to discuss means of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel is therefore seeking a form of peace which can enable it to impose its will at any time on any of its neighbours, and not a peace that can be achieved at an international conference guaranteed by world powers. Israel wants peace with land and is not ready to give back the land to its lawful owners. This is Israel's official position which will be presented to George Shultz during his latest round of talks in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Doomed to failure

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has arrived in Israel for yet another round of talks on the Middle East question against a pessimistic atmosphere created by Israeli leaders' statements. Shultz who had started his tour in our region on an optimistic note seems to be toning down his expectations, and is expressing some doubts about arriving at a successful outcome. This change of heart is clearly caused by Israel's statements in which Shamir and other members of his cabinet outrightly rejected the new American proposals and the idea of an international conference which would help the Arabs and the Israelis to exchange land for peace. But instead of trying to exert some pressure and influence on Shamir to make concessions, Shultz seemed to be trying to appease the Israeli premier, thus strengthening Israel's intransigence. In addition, the U.S. Congress has been warning the U.S. administration against pressuring Israel or trying to change its official position. This situation has caused Shultz to face a wall of Israeli rejectionist policy and an extreme and hardened position with regard to the U.S. proposals. Hence, we can imagine Shultz failing in his endeavour and returning home without achieving any progress towards the aspired peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. responsibility

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is embarking on a fresh attempt to bring about a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shultz is making his third attempt in less than two months despite Israel's intransigent position and the negative stand shown by Yitzhak Shamir to the American proposals. The U.S. is partly responsible for this Israeli attitude since the American administration continues to give the Jewish state pledges of unlimited support and unlimited military and economic help. The U.S. is taking this position despite its full knowledge of Israel's negative attitude and its refusal to exchange land for peace, through a lasting settlement at an international conference. What Israel wants to hear is continued American support and nothing about proposals for a genuine peace. The Arabs for their part, still adhere to the idea of an international conference but they can welcome any serious bid towards achieving a settlement through convincing Israel of recognising the rights of the Palestinian people. Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries will deal with the new proposals in a manner that can achieve a durable peace, and not as ideas leading to partial settlements.

A commonwealth of Israel and Palestine?

By Richard Arnold

THE Palestine problem bedevils world statesmen; and the sufferings of the Palestinian people continue unabated. New ideas, new attitudes, new concepts are needed, if the current impasse is to be unblocked. In this context it is worth considering again the merits of the once highly praised, but now forgotten, concept of The Commonwealth of Palestine, or, as we may now suggest, The Commonwealth of Israel and Palestine.

In February, 1947, Great Britain placed the problem of Palestine into the hands of the United Nations, and henceforth authority for deciding the future of Palestine was vested in the U.N. The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was set up and sent to Palestine to investigate and make recommendations.

On August 31, 1947, the Committee tabled its Final Report in Geneva. It included two sets of recommendations: the Minority Recommendation, advanced by India, Turkey and Yugoslavia, advocated a federal scheme of government for Palestine, while the Majority Recommendation, put forward by the remaining ten members of the Committee, suggested a form of partition for Palestine — a scheme known as The Commonwealth of Palestine. This Commonwealth of Palestine was described in a memorandum of 46 clauses, written by Mr. Ivan Rand, chief justice of the supreme court of Canada, and Canadian representative on the Committee.

On November 29, 1947, the U.N. General Assembly, having voted in favour of the Majority Recommendation, announced a plan for the partition of Palestine. But the original concept — The Commonwealth of Palestine — has now been forgotten. It is time to examine it again.

Rand believed that the religious, cultural and historical significance of Palestine set it "apart irrevocably from the rest of the world, and recognition of that fact ought now to be formally declared by the nations". (Clause 1). In Clauses 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 he sets out his main ideas:

1. I would lay it down therefore as a primary postulate that this land must be deemed to be a Holy Land, to be called the Commonwealth of Palestine, a focus of the spiritual and religious interests of the people of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths and this dedication should be symbolised by a declaration that a sovereign interest in the Commonwealth resides in the United Nations Organisation forever.

2. A second postulate, a corollary of the first, is that in any reorganisation of its government, the unity and integrity of the economic and social life of the Commonwealth must be maintained.

3. My suggestion then for a scheme of partition of Palestine which preserves its economic and social integrity is this:

4. There would be three independent states; one which we may (for present purposes) call the Jewish State, the second, the Arab State, and the third, the State of Jerusalem. In each there would be vested full powers of political sovereignty except so far as they might be specifically modified by the constituting instrument.

5. Each of the states would be deemed a republic founded on a democratic basis in which individual equal and non-discriminatory rights in civil, political and religious matters, the non-impairment of obligations, and the rights of minorities in relation to education, language and cultural activities, would be guaranteed.

In subsequent Clauses, Rand discusses the government of the State of Jerusalem, the judicial system, and the independence of

minority groups in each state to maintain their own systems of education. None of the states could maintain a standing army or air force, but home guards with auxiliary air units might be established for police and protective purposes.

A Central Authority was to be established, which would have regard to "a certain field of common functional interest," such as "highways, railways, ports, irrigation and other works connecting or directly affecting the three states"; and "it would also have concurrent powers of financial assistance to the states in respect of such matters as education, health and social services."

Most important is Clause 44. Rand suggests that "the Central Authority be likewise the government for the State of Jerusalem." The constitution of the Government of the State of Jerusalem could, he feels, "be made to fit in satisfactorily with that of the Central Authority."

The original and imaginative ideas in the Memorandum might be adapted and made relevant to the situation today.

The special religious and historical character which Rand ascribes to Palestine, and the international recognition which he feels should be accorded to this fact by the United Nations, transcend political considerations — the Palestine question is lifted onto a higher plane. This is the philosophy behind the solution.

Under the "nominal aegis" of the United Nations, three separate independent states are "created" and recognised by all nations — Palestine, Israel and the State of Jerusalem — all comprising The Commonwealth of Palestine (or, The Commonwealth of Israel and Palestine). Such a plan would provide a flexible political framework wherein the states could retain complete autonomy; or, they could eventually blend into a larger, more cohesive entity. Such a fluid arrangement

would allow both Jews and Arabs to entertain their aspirations for their homelands with hope of fulfillment.

The "Arab State" would comprise the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and possibly the western part of Galilee; here the wishes and rights of the Palestinians are of paramount importance, the field work of independent commissioners determining the boundaries between Israel and Palestine would be crucial to a satisfactory settlement.

The establishment of the Commonwealth would accord well with King Fahd's eight-point peace plan; indeed, his proposals are indispensable to any final settlement, including: A guarantee of a final settlement by the United Nations; recognition of the right of Palestinians to repatriation, with compensation for those not wishing to return; the establishment of East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. There is no reason why the State of Jerusalem should not house the capitals of the other two states; part of East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine; part of West Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

The idea of an independent State of Jerusalem (A Free City, a kind of New Jerusalem), functioning, like the other two states, under the auspices of the United Nations, might appeal to religious leaders throughout the world. (It is worth noting, incidentally, that the State of Jerusalem comprised a large area of surrounding countryside, including Bethlehem).

Britain and its European partners are urging Israel and the United States that an international peace conference should be convened as soon as possible. Such a conference could reconsider the concept of a Commonwealth of Palestine, and explore its possibilities as a comprehensive settlement solution is sought — Middle East International, London.

1967: A turning point for Israeli Arabs

In this second of three articles Lamis K. Andoni explores the relationship between Palestinians in Israel and in the occupied territories, and traces the evolution of Land Day.

*So what,
When in my homeland
The sparrow dies of starvation,
In exile without a shroud,
While the earthworm is satiated,
Devouring God's food.
So what,
When in the barren space satellites spin,
And in the streets walks a beggar, holding a hat,
Blow east winds!
Our roots are still alive.*

Samih El Qassem.

THE 12th anniversary of Land Day, commemorated on March 30, has once again emphasised the role of the 700,000 Israeli Arabs in the national Palestinian struggle.

But the "contrast" between the peaceful rallies organised by Arabs in "Israel proper" with the rebellious national spirit of the stone throwers of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have once again underscored the "official civil rights" nature of the movement of the Israeli Arabs, the Palestinians of 1948 as they are called in the Arab World.

In fact the focus of the Israeli Arabs on civil right issues was basically a result of external and internal political factors which had prevented the involvement of an effective and clearly-defined Palestinian nationalist movement following the establishment of Israel in 1948.

Such a national movement with its relevant independent institutions did not exist in such a form anywhere in Palestine prior to 1948 and consequently the Israeli Arabs lacked such a necessary umbrella.

This was not the case with the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. By 1967 the Palestinian resistance movement was already founded, albeit in a clandestine fashion, and it had already established links and even cells in those areas.

That is not to say that the Israeli Arabs did not attempt to organise politically but that they only had limited choices. Those who chose to effect a change through the system, without abandoning their identity, joined the Israeli Communist Party (Rakah), which was actually the continuation of the Palestinian Communist Party founded in 1921.

There was a minority who joined Israeli Zionist parties, but the pan-Arabist trend which swept the region in the fifties and the sixties could not but affect the mood and the outlook of many of the Israeli Arabs. This influence was translated mainly into the raising of expectations of many Israeli Arabs in an eventual "liberation" of Arabs from Israeli rule.

According to Gazi Saadi, chairman of Al Jalil Research Centre, the Israeli Arabs were looking at late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser as the "national saviour". On the organisational level Israeli Arabs founded the nationalist Ard (the Land) movement. Israel banned the Ard movement which was influenced by the pan-Arabist ideology, particularly the Nasserite trend. Unlike Rakah the Ard movement refused to work through the Israeli political establishment. According to political analysts, who studied that period, the Ard movement believed that the Arabs were bound to win the war and liberate the Palestinians.

"This feeling persisted during the first days of the 1967 war," Saadi, who lived in the Galilee until he was deported by the Israelis in 1977, said.

"I remember that at the outset of the war even Jews expected the Arabs to be the victors and our Jewish neighbours used to beg us to be nice to them once Arab rule prevailed again in Palestine," Saadi recalls. "But the Jewish attitude changed as it became evident that the Arabs were defeated and the dreams of many of us of a possible liberation collapsed."

While the 1967 defeat shattered the dreams of many Israeli Arabs of possible liberation through war, it also opened new horizons and scopes for them by strengthening their ties with the Arab movements in general and the Palestinian resistance in particular.

Turning point

Historians and analysts believe that the 1967 war constituted a turning point for the Israeli Arabs since it strengthened their feeling of belonging to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and abroad. "They felt that they were part of one people," Saadi said.

Furthermore in 1967 the Israeli government lifted the military rule imposed on Arab towns and villages for the first time since 1948, thus providing for a freer movement of the Israeli Arabs. But analysts believe that it was the Arab victory in 1973 and the 1974 Arab and international recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people which constituted important political factors that fuelled Palestinian national fervour among the Palestinians of 1948 and in the occupied territories.

On their own part, the Israelis played an inadvertent role in re-enforcing the Palestinian identity of the Israeli Arabs when they introduced a plan in 1976 to expropriate Arab lands as part of a scheme for the judaisation of Galilee. That was the last straw for the Arabs in Galilee who despite the fact that they constituted 50 per cent of the population they owned only 8-10 per cent of the land, due to systematic Israeli expropriations.

On March 30, 1976, the Arabs revolted in defence of their land and as a result six Arabs were killed when the Israelis opened fire to defuse the rallies and protests in the Galilee.

While Palestinian analysts here agree that the Land Day was a manifestation of the Israeli Arabs' unwavering commitment to their Palestinian identity, they differ in assessing the major political forces that led to that day.

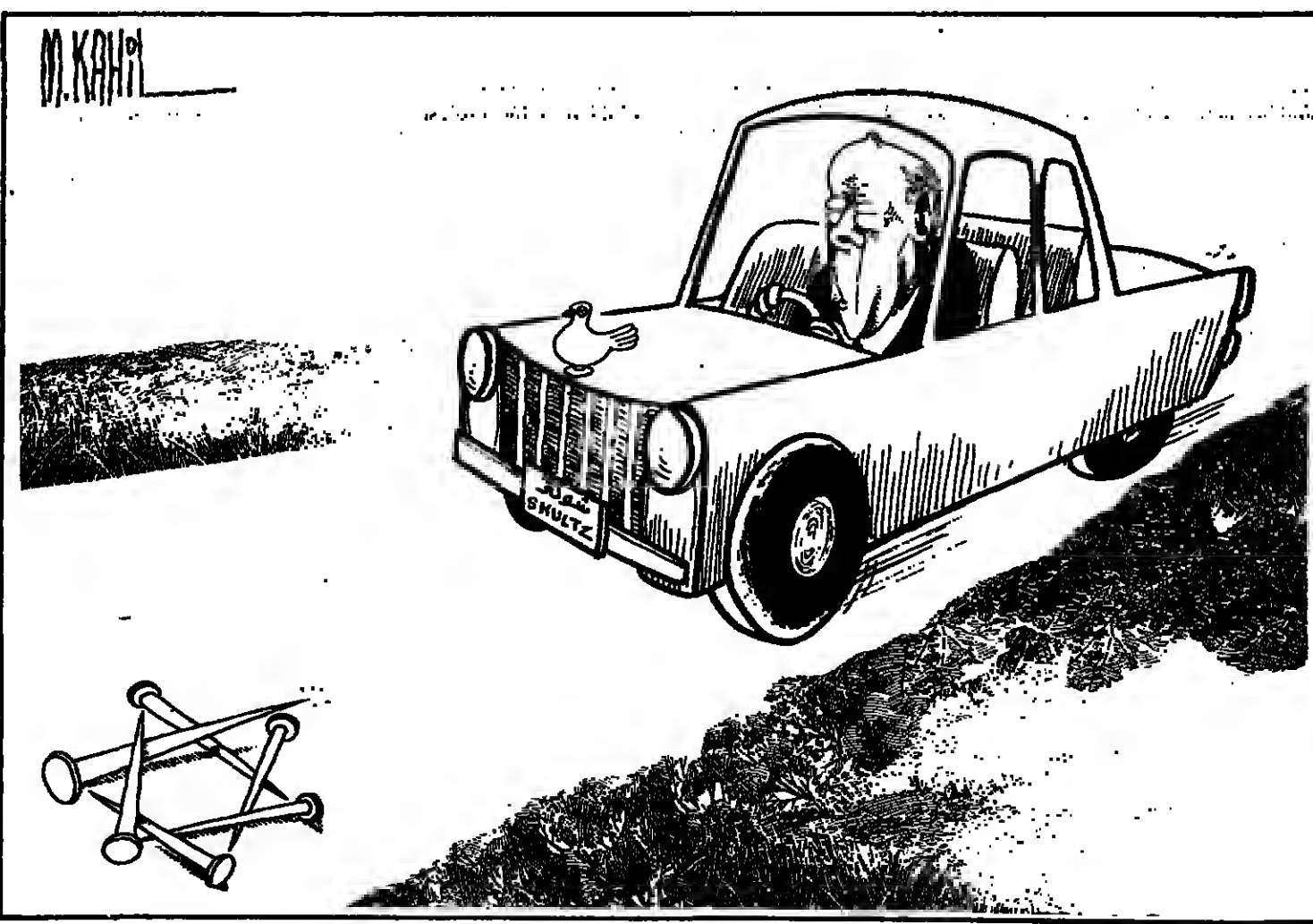
While some believe that it was the constant organisation and daily struggle of Rakah which galvanised the Arab movement in defence of their rights and the land, others argue that Land Day was the culmination of the long struggle of the banned Ard movement which succeeded in creating a Palestinian nationalist trend.

The analysts, however, agree that the decade which followed the 1967 war witnessed a growing manifestation of Palestinian nationalism and an increasing support for the PLO and its goals among the Israeli Arabs.

According to statistics Israel arrested or deported around 3,000 Israeli Arabs between 1967-1977 for "security reasons" including contacts with Palestinian armed factions.

But despite the growing Palestinian nationalism among the Israeli Arabs, they have not officially endorsed explicit nationalist demands.

However, their primary goal to remain steadfast in their land cannot but be perceived as part of the general national Palestinian struggle although their tactics and slogans, so far, have been confined to those of a civil rights movement.



Is Israel dictating U.S. policy?

The following article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune. The writer is professor of political science at Tufts University and a senior associate of the Centre for European Studies at Harvard.

By Tony Smith

BOSTON — Assume that in the general elections to be held later this year Israeli public opinion rallies behind Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's repeated assertions that national security requires Israel to maintain unquestioned sovereignty in the occupied territories. Given the importance of American financial, military and diplomatic support for Israel, any such decision by Israel automatically engages America as well.

Americans are thus coming to see that their own national interest is also at stake in the Israeli repression of the Palestinian uprising. The question is not one of assigning moral culpability to Israel but of recognising the reality of U.S. interests that Israel cannot expect America to ignore indefinitely.

According to Shamir, the

Palestinian uprising will be satisfied with nothing less than the elimination of the Jewish state. As Shamir and his supporters assert, there should be no expectations that "Judaea and Samaria" will ever be lost to Israeli rule.

Yet the current international situation is as favourable for the exchange of territory for peace as one could hope since the annexation of East Jerusalem and the settlement of large numbers of Jews in these areas.

Most Arab states have the Iran-Iraq war at the head of their list of regional concerns. A solution of the Palestinian issue that recognised Israel's right to secure borders would presumably be acceptable to Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Nor is the Soviet Union as interested in fishing in troubled waters as it once might have been. Secretary of State George Shultz's suggestion that Moscow be included in any international conference to oversee a settlement in the region is recognition of the stabilising role that General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev might play in Middle East politics.

If Israeli opinion hardens on the question of Palestinian auton-

omy in such a relatively mild international climate, what realistic hope is there that it will soften tomorrow under a less favourable configuration of forces? What we see emerging is an ugly civil conflict, one just as bitter as that in Northern Ireland or South Africa, and one likely to stretch just as far into the future.

How should the United States interpret its own interests? Clearly it has global responsibilities that can only be severely handicapped by a close relationship with an Israel whose annexationist policy threatens to associate America permanently with such a festering issue.

The need for friends and manoeuvrability not only in the Arab World but throughout the lands of Islam from Turkey to Pakistan dictates that the United States seek to avoid the common perception of an American blank check to Israel. That is what Shultz's recent trip was about: Reaffirming America's commitment to the well-being of Israel while insisting on the legitimacy of the United States asserting its own interests in the area.

But if the Shultz initiatives should fail, as they seem to have, Israel would have used the support of the international com-

munity not to ease itself out of a terrible dilemma but instead to dig itself more deeply into an intractable conflict. And as with South Africa, Washington may be left with no sensible policy but to distance itself from a problem it has patiently but unsuccessfully tried for years to help resolve.

Shamir has repeatedly asserted that the United States should not try to influence Israeli policy. Israel alone will judge what its interests are. But can Israel genuinely expect the United States to remain indifferent when its own vital interests are at stake? Can it deny to Washington the right it claims for itself?

It would be a serious mistake to assume that Secretary Shultz is a lame duck with only a few more months in office. The considerations he has raised are those that the next administration must address quickly and frankly as well.

If Shamir's interpretation of the situation becomes the majority opinion in Israel, what other choice do Americans have but to review critically the many ways their ability to act in world affairs is hampered by an inflexible ally whose policies have made it a serious and permanent liability to America's national interest?

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Aden to export oil in 1989

NICOSIA (AP) — South Yemen will become an oil exporting country next year after the development of newly discovered oilfields under a Moscow-Aden agreement, an authoritative oil newsletter reported Monday.

The weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said the agreement was signed last week during a visit by two Soviet ministers to Aden. It did not name the officials.

Under the agreement, MEES said, Soviet firms would develop the Iyad West and Amal oilfields in the Shabwa region. It also provides for the construction of a 170-200 kilometre pipeline to be completed within one year.

The pipeline, stretching from the fields to Bir Ali, on the Gulf of Aden, initially will carry 50,000-70,000 barrels of oil a day, increasing gradually to 100,000 barrels a day, MEES said.

The eventual throughput capacity of the line will rise to 500,000 barrels a day, it said.

The development of the fields and the construction of the pipeline will be financed by loans provided by the Soviet Union. The agreement also permits the sub-contracting of Western and Arab firms for the construction work and the supply of necessary equipment, the report said.

A number of international oil firms are negotiating for concession awards on a production sharing basis in the North Shabwa region, which has become a focus of keen interest among oil explorers, MEES said.

Indonesia says new Japan oil contract agreed

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's state-owned Pertamina oil company and Japanese buyers have agreed in principle to a new one-year contract for crude sales, but have yet to sign the deal, Pertamina Spokesman Kusnadi Endin said Monday.

Half Indonesia's oil exports go to Japan, and the annual contract is crucial for the national budget of South East Asia's largest nation.

Endin declined to give details, except to emphasise that the deal was linked to prices set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Mitterrand: Sanctions question rekindled after ANC killing

PARIS (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand said the murder last week of an African National Congress (ANC) official in Paris rekindled the question of economic sanctions against Pretoria, but he ruled out a break in diplomatic relations.

In an interview Sunday with the independent Radio Monte Carlo, Mitterrand was asked if he suspected South African involvement in the March 29 murder of Dulcie September, a spokeswoman for the ANC in France, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

"I have had suspicions about the (South African) regime for a long time," Mitterrand said. "But with regard to the assassination of Dulcie September, I can say nothing definite, even if my intuition tells me something else."

September, 33, was found shot to death in front of the door to her office in central Paris. Police said at the time that they had no witnesses and no material clues beyond the .22-caliber cartridge casings found at the scene.



Francois Mitterrand

They said the killing appeared to be the work of a professional. On Saturday, the French daily Le Monde said Western intelligence agencies in Paris were convinced that South African secret service agents were responsible for the murder. The front-page

story said intelligence personnel believed the South African national intelligence service, if not directly involved, at least ordered the murder and possibly organised it.

The South African government has denied any involvement in the killing.

Mitterrand said "the crime committed raises even more ardently" the role of economic sanctions. But "a rupture is an impossibility, or at least much more difficult" for the French government which hopes "to render service, to bear witness for the black people of South Africa, in such a tragic situation."

In September 1986, France voted with other members of the European Community to impose limited economic sanctions on South Africa.

Mitterrand said apartheid is a system that should be "rejected and fought," but that "diplomatic relations are not dependent on our opinion of a political system."

When Wall Street sneezes, do other markets catch cold?

By David Ress
Reuter

LONDON — A reason for the scale of the crash '87 and for more recent money market jitters may be the tendency of traders around the globe to react less to the actual news than to what other traders do, some economists say.

They call it "The Contagion Theory."

Falls on Wall Street in the third week of March, for instance, produced a reaction in stock and currencies elsewhere. Traders marked prices lower, in very quiet trading, keeping a nervous eye on New York.

"Weakness in the dollar is now beginning to feed off the DJ (Dow Jones Industrial Average)," said a London currency dealer.

That does not surprise those economists who back the theory of market contagion.

"If the theory is right, then that leaves open one possible explanation of the crash, in terms of saying that the crash started in one market and through the volatility so generated, was transmitted to other markets," says Professor Mervyn King of the London School of Economics.

The idea

The idea, he told a recent conference at the school, is that the London Stock Market reacts to Wall Street, while New York brokers start trading towards the middle of London's afternoon.

But, he added, New York brokers look at what London had been doing before deciding whether to open Wall Street up or down.

That kind of reaction feeding on reaction feeding on reaction may move shares farther than companies' prospects or economic conditions would otherwise dictate.

"Our figures seem to say that normally a one point drop in U.S.

share prices will set off a 0.7 point drop in London prices which may feed back and knock 0.3 points off New York prices," said Sushil Wadhvani of the London School of Economics.

"Each bounce is smaller than the one before," he said.

But, he added, a statistical analysis of New York, London and Tokyo share prices between September and November, 1987, suggests that pattern of diminishing bounces can break down when markets become extremely volatile.

A trader can lose millions in such circumstances by delaying a purchase or sale of big blocks of shares, or currencies, or commodities.

The more prices fluctuate, and the more nervous traders grow as a result of that, the more likely they are to react to what other markets are doing.

No time to think

That is what happened on and just after Oct. 19, "Black Monday," when Wall Street shares plunged 22.6 points, Wadhvani said.

"When traders sitting in front of their screens saw New York drop, they didn't have time to stop and think if there was any fundamental reason, if something in the condition of the world economy had changed, or if it was just the effect of programme selling, they just sold," said Wadhvani.

"One market goes down, the other goes down, and then the whole climate gets more volatile so that each successive change remains high," said Wadhvani. "You don't get the dampening effect."

Wadhvani and King's analysis aimed at isolating a statistical correlation between the way New York, London and Tokyo share prices move.

Trading noise

There is always some relation, but during the crash, the degree

of correlation between New York and London prices during the times of day when both markets were open was unusually high, Wadhvani said.

"There was an awful lot of trading noise, and those figures reflect it," he said. "They suggest that things were very unstable."

But he said the sample, from a statistician's point of view, was small and that suggests a potential for error.

James Poterba, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said he is not completely convinced.

"The real difficulty is to sort out whether the effect is markets transmitting prices to other markets, or whether it is different markets reacting to the same news," Poterba said.

"But what is clear is that the widespread collapse of markets around the world on Oct. 19 is hard to explain by looking at purely U.S. factors," he added.

Saudi Arabia sets oil contract level

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia has told its oil customers they must contract for at least 100,000 barrels a day to qualify for market-related price relief, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

Saudi Arabia has told buyers that "they must upgrade their volumes to the required 100,000 barrels a day if they wish to be eligible for price relief."

"Otherwise the full official prices will continue to be applicable," the newsweekly said.

"In effect this will presumably mean that smaller customers will be squeezed out of the Saudi marketing pattern."

As an example, the publication said Kyodo Oil of Japan, which has a contract volume of 60,000 barrels a day, has been informed by the Saudis that "it will not be eligible for the discounted prices unless it raises its liftings to 100,000 barrels a day." So far Kyodo has not done so, it said.

Arab reinsurers association formed

MANAMA (J.T.) — In line with General Arab Insurance Federation (GAIF) resolutions aimed at enhancing relations between its members and raising the level of the insurance industry in the Arab World, the formation of the Arab Reinsurers Association (ARA) was announced at the end of the ninth Arab reinsurers meeting, held in Bahrain on March 20-21 and hosted by the Arab Insurance Group (ARIG).

Delegates from 10 of the 13 reinsurance companies registered in Arab countries who attended the meeting unanimously endorsed the formation of the ARA.

The main aims of ARA are to strengthen the ties and cooperation between Arab insurance market in the Arab World. This includes improved monitoring of the Arab markets in order to better utilise the capacity available and retain more premium in the region.

Another aim is to improve training and the development of professional skills in the Arab insurance industry.

Gabon urges Arab-African cooperation

KUWAIT (R) — Gabonese President Omar Bongo has urged greater Arab-African cooperation and accused Arab states of neglecting diplomatic and economic ties with black Africa.

"There is no Arab-African cooperation to speak of," he told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassah in an interview published Monday. "We notice an unfortunate absence of Arabs from the African scene."

Hopes raised by the 1978 Arab-African summit in Cairo had not been fulfilled and no Arab Gulf state had yet opened an embassy in Libreville despite Gabonese attempts to expand ties, he added.

Dubai to spot trade, store oil products

DUBAI (AP) — Spot trading in petroleum products, backed by commercial storage, is to begin at the free zone area of this southern Gulf emirate, Dubai's English-language daily Gulf News reported Monday.

The Star Energy Corp. Ltd. of the neighbouring emirate of Abu Dhabi is set to begin operations at the first independent trader in oil products in the Gulf with its own facilities, the paper said.

The independent storage facility which includes eight tanks with total capacity of 310,000 cubic metres is expected to be ready soon. Operations are scheduled to begin by the end of the year.

The Dubai project will be different from others in the Gulf that are limited in scope as most of the

storage facilities are either government owned or dedicated to oil companies.

Star Energy Corp. Ltd. has been trading on the international markets for years but will now provide the Gulf with its first independent and storage facility.

It will be dealing in white petroleum products which a company spokesman said include gas oil, naphtha, kerosene and natural condensates.

The location is ideal because of loading facilities from berths at a dedicated quay at Dubai's Jabel Ali Port, the biggest man-made harbour in the region. Civil works for the pipeline network have started and the facility would be one of the most modern in the world, the paper said.

ACDIMA board discusses plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Amman-based Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) held a meeting here Monday during which it discussed the company's plans and various financial and administrative issues.

The company's main goals are to develop the pharmaceuticals industry in the Arab World and to achieve Arab drug security.

The board was also briefed by ACDIMA Director General Dr.

Muawafiq Haddadin on the company's achievements during the past year.

ACDIMA, with a capital of 60 million Kuwaiti dinars, is a joint Arab companies set up by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

Seventeen Arab states and corporations contribute to the company's capital.

The company also contributes to 17 drug projects and pharmaceutical companies in the Arab World.

Agriculture course to aid Zarqa River project

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has opened a two-month training course for agricultural extension staff who will guide farmers working on the Zarqa River Basin development project.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Salem Al Lawzi, who opened the course, said that the development project was the first of its kind designed to develop high regions and raise the living standard of the local population.

The project entails raising the walls of the King Talal Dam and reducing silt accumulation.

The government has committed JD 32 million to the Zarqa Basin development project, which aims to induce a gradual increase in livestock and agricultural production.

The seven-year project initiated in 1986 aims to combat soil erosion, introduce safe land use measures and improve farming techniques.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Monday April 4, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	138,854	JD 266,832	222
Top three companies:			
Jordan Bank	10,000	JD 151,500	1
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries	55,734	JD 11,782	24
Intermediate Petrochemicals	8,050	JD 11,270	22
Parallel market:	8,764	JD 4,376	—
Treasury bills & bonds	—	—	—

Joint company begins fishing project studies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company formed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has begun studies on setting up a joint fishing company at Aqaba.

Company Director-General Midhat Aziz said that \$20 million has been allocated for this project, which will be implemented in two stages. According to Abdul Aziz, the first stage entails conducting field studies in the Aqaba Gulf to locate an appropriate site for the project, while the second phase involves installing the fishing equipment and making arrangements for marketing the catch in Arab and foreign countries.

He said an Egyptian delegation led by Dr. Farouk Abdul Jabbar, chairman of the Egyptian fishing company, will arrive in Amman today for talks with officials at the Aqaba Region Authority and Ministry of Agriculture on the project's initial feasibility studies.

February agroexports total 16,613 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total exports of agricultural produce to Arab and European countries during February 1988 amounted to 16,613 tonnes, registering an increase of 1,937 tonnes over the total for the same month of last year.

An official at the Ministry of Agriculture Department of Agricultural Economy said that February fruit exports amounted to 7,777 tonnes, marking a decrease of 2,494 tonnes from February 1987. He said that the produce was exported to Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain and the European Community countries.

According to the official, Jordan imported 67 tonnes of onions, 1,449 tonnes of potatoes, 1,444 tonnes of potato seeds, 199 tonnes of apples, 90 tonnes of dates and 17 tonnes of chestnuts during February 1988.

ECONOMY BRIEFS

JOINT SHIPPING: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan met here Monday with the Jordanian-Syrian Shipping Company Director-General Othman Labbad to discuss a number of matters related to the company's projects. The joint company implements projects in Syria and Jordan.

BALQA SCHOOLS: Education Department officials said Monday that work is underway in Balqa Governorate for the construction of four schools at a cost of more than JD 1.5 million. Two schools for boys at Al Azzariyah and Umm Atieh will cost JD 685,000; and two schools for girls at Salameh and Wadi Dalal will cost JD 830,000, according to these officials. They said that work on the projects will be completed by summer. The officials also said that the Department of Education recently completed work on a JD 790,000 vocational training school for girls at Swada; also in Balqa Governorate.

MAFRAQ LOANS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation gave a total of JD 225 in loans to farmers in Mafraq Governorate during the first three months of 1988, according to a corporation official here. He said that a total of 44 local farmers benefitted from these loans by employing the funds to purchase equipment and in the development of their farms and livestock. He said that the corporation last year gave loans totalling JD 814,000 to 337 farmers in the governorate.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

Morning meeting April 6 starting 9.30 a.m. prompt
at Amra Hotel
Medical Guest Speakers
Preferably no children please

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Jordan Times

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SRI LANKAN CONSULATE

The delegation from Sri Lanka, Mr. David Soysa, Chairman, Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment, Mr. M.B. Ratnayake, Controller Immigration & Emigration, Mr. E.G. Bonifacio Perera, Attorney at Law & Director of Bureau of Foreign Employment, are here in Amman.

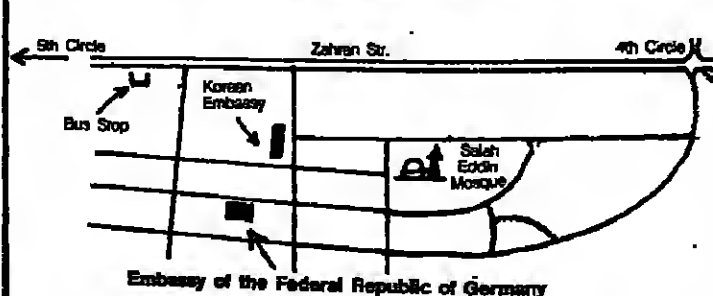
Any Sri Lankan who wishes to meet them are welcome to the Sri Lankan Consulate on 7/4/88 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (2 hours).

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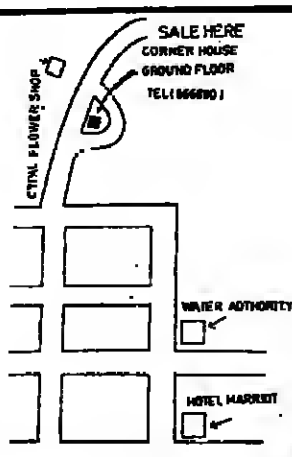
EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The embassy and the consular section will be operating from new premises, Jabal Amman / 4th Circle with effect from 5.4.1988. (P.O. Box 183, Tel: 689351)



MOVING SALE

Household effects - everything must go. Tuesday and Wednesday April 5 and 6. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

JAWS THE REVENGE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625153

TOY SOLDIERS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOU CINEMA** Tel: 675573

HOLLYWOOD VICE SQUAD

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

RUNNING MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

United-Liverpool soccer melee ends in draw

LONDON (R) — Manchester United successfully defended one of the proudest records in English soccer Monday when, despite being reduced to 10 men by the dismissal of defender Colin Gibson, they held First Division leaders Liverpool to a 3-3 draw at Anfield.

Despite some indifferent recent form, Liverpool with seven games to play remain 11 points ahead of United and 14 clear of Nottingham Forest. United, however, have played two more games than Liverpool and Forest.

United, unbeaten on visits to Liverpool since 1979, were expected to face the backlash from the Reds' second defeat of the season, at Forest Saturday, but surprised everyone by taking a second minute lead through England captain Bryan Robson.

His goal put United in command and they withstood tremendous pressure before collapsing dramatically and conceding three goals in nine minutes either side of the interval.

England striker Peter Beardsley, recalled after being dropped at Nottingham, levelled in the 37th minute, Scottish defender Gary Gillespie put Liverpool ahead three minutes later and Steve McMahon hit a third just one minute into the second half.

When United left-back Gibson was sent off after 59 minutes for a foul on Steve Nicol it seemed Liverpool would be able to run up a big score.

But 10-man United stormed back. Robson brought them back into the game with a 65th minute goal and Gordon Strachan struck an equaliser 12 minutes from time.

Many experts had predicted Liverpool would be celebrating their 17th championship with Easter victories over Forest and United, but instead the Merseyside team are still left requiring seven points to secure the title.

Forest, who face Liverpool in an English Football Association (F.A.) Cup semifinal Saturday, maintained the pressure on the leaders with a 1-0 win at struggling Portsmouth, Terry Wilson scoring the only goal in the 67th minute.

Everton hung on to fourth position despite being held to a 0-0 draw at West Ham but now lead fifth-placed Queen's Park Rangers only a goal difference.

Queen's Park Rangers beat fellow-Londoners Tottenham 2-0 with a goal in each half from David Kerslake to move level with Everton on 61 points. Liverpool lead with 77, United have 66 and Forest 63.

Sixth-placed Arsenal, who meet Luton Town in the League Cup final later this month, ended a run of five games without a win when they beat Norwich 2-0 with England under-21 midfielder Paul Davis, back after injury, setting up both goals for Alan Smith and Perry Groves.

Arsenal, sixth in the English First Division and looking forward to a meeting with struggling Luton in the English League Cup final later this month, had been out of touch in recent weeks.

At the other end of the table, bottom club Watford were beaten 1-0 at Charlton and now look doomed to relegation as they trail 20th-placed Oxford by six points with six matches to play.

Robert Lee scored the only goal after 26 minutes to lift Charlton above Portsmouth and out of the bottom three.

Oxford, now managed by former Liverpool defender Mark Lawrenson, were held 0-0 at home by Southampton and also look certain to be playing in the Second Division next season.

Hill outclasses Emebe, retains WBA title

BISMARCK, North Dakota (R) — American Virgil Hill outboxed Cameroon-born Frenchman Jean-Marie Emebe for 10 rounds Sunday, then stopped him in the 11th to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight title.

Hill, 24, improved his record to 21-0, to the delight of his hometown fans. Emebe's record dropped to 25-5. It was the first title fight ever held in North Dakota and over 8,000 fans packed the Bismarck Convention Centre to cheer for the state's first world champion.

Hill did not disappoint as he danced and jabbed his way through the early rounds, building a huge lead.

Emebe fought his way out of trouble a couple of times in the middle rounds, but Hill was so far ahead on points that the challenger's only hope of victory was a late knockout.

Instead, Hill connected with a combination to Emebe's head in the 11th round that dropped the paragon to the canvas for the first time in the 32-year-old's career.

Emebe was able to get up, but was virtually defenceless. Hill backed him into a corner and landed punches at will to the head and body of the exhausted challenger and referee Roberto Ramirez stopped the fight at 1:29 of the 11th round of the scheduled 12-rounders.

"I think he anticipated me to run more than I did," said Hill who aggravated a hand injury and suffered a cut over the left eye from a seemingly unintentional head butt in the eighth round that did not slow him down.

"There were a couple of rounds that were very close," said Hill, "I think he was a little surprised by the power in my left hand."

Emebe refused to discuss retirement after the bout.

Emebe's manager, who said Emebe was a "real fighter," said Emebe was a "real fighter."

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NBA STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Basketball Association (NBA) teams after Sunday's games:

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Y-Boston Celtics	52	21	.712	—
Philadelphia 76ers	32	39	.451	19
New York Knicks	32	40	.444	19½
Washington Bullets	32	39	.451	19
New Jersey Nets	18	54	.250	34
Central Division				
X-Detroit Pistons	46	25	.648	—
X-Atlanta Hawks	45	26	.634	1
Chicago Bulls	43	29	.597	3½
Milwaukee Bucks	39	31	.557	6½
Cleveland Cavaliers	34	38	.472	12½
Indiana Pacers	33	38	.465	13
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
X-Dallas Mavericks	46	25	.648	—
X-Denver Nuggets	46	26	.638	½
X-Houston Rockets	41	29	.586	4½
X-Utah Jazz	39	31	.557	6½
San Antonio Spurs	27	44	.380	19
Sacramento Kings	20	51	.282	26
Pacific Division				
X-Los Angeles Lakers	54	16	.771	—
X-Portland Trail Blazers	44	26	.629	10
X-Seattle SuperSonics	37	33	.529	16
Phoenix Suns	23	46	.333	30½
Golden State Warriors	17	53	.243	37
Los Angeles Clippers	15	55	.214	39
X-Clinched playoff berth				
Y-Clinched division title				

NHL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Final standings of National Hockey League (NHL) teams after Sunday's games:

Wales Conference						
Patrick Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
X-New York Islanders	39	31	10	88	308	267
Y-Washington Capitals	38	33	9	85	281	249
Y-Philadelphia Flyers	38	33	9	85	292	293
Y-New Jersey Devils	38	36	6	82	293	296
Y-New York Rangers	36	34	10	82	300	285
Pittsburgh Penguins	36	35	9	81	319	316
Adams Division						
X-Montreal Canadiens	45	22	13	103	298	238
Y-Boston Bruins	44	30	6	94	300	251
Y-Buffalo Sabres	37	32	11	87	285	305
Y-Hartford Whalers	35	38	7	77	249	267
Quebec Nordiques	32	43	5	69	271	306
Campbell Conference						
Norris Division						
X-Detroit Red Wings	41	28	10	93	322	269
Y-St. Louis Blues	34	38	8	76	278	294
Y-Chicago Black Hawks	30	41	9	69	284	328
Y-Toronto Maple Leafs	21	49	10	52	273	345
Minnesota North Stars	19	48	13	51	242	349
Smythe Division						
X-Calgary Flames	48	23	9	105	397	305
Y-Edmonton Oilers	44	25	11	99	363	288
Y-Winnipeg Jets	33	36	11	77	286	304
Y-Los Angeles Kings	30	42	8	68	318	359
Vancouver Canucks	25	46	9	59	272	320
X-Clinched division title						
Y-Clinched playoff berth						

Biasion wins Safari Rally

NAIROBI (R) — Lancia-driver Miki Biasion took over as World Championship leader Monday when he won the Safari Rally, the first Italian victory in the 36 years of the rugged endurance test.

Biasion, who lost 13 minutes in Monday's final stage, finished with a total time loss of two hours 51 minutes four seconds.

He held off a strong challenge from Kenyan Mike Kirkland, in a Nissan, who lost 3:03:57 and third-placed Per Eklund of Sweden, also in a Nissan, whose penalties totalled 3:38:26.

"This is the most important victory of my career and also the hardest," said Biasion, whose win lifted him 10 points clear of fellow-Italian Alessandro Fiorio at the top of the standings.

Desperate attempt

Kirkland made a desperate bid to overhaul Biasion Monday, continuing to drive despite severe damage to the front-end suspension of his car.

"I couldn't hold the car on the road because it was bouncing all over the place," said the 40-year-old former Kenyan champion after Monday's 510-kilometre (315-mile) stage through the dusty rift valley.

"Every time we took one minute off him (Biasion) we'd get a puncture and lose two (minutes)," Kirkland said.

Kirkland's Nissan teammate Eklund, plagued by punctures on the last leg, held onto third place.

Kenneth Eriksson, driving a Toyota Supra, finished fourth. It was the first time the 31-year-old Swede had finished the Safari Rally.

Defending world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland, who led the rally Saturday, finished fifth with a time loss of four hours 16 minutes 22 seconds.

Only 14 of the 54 cars that left

the ramp Thursday made it over the finishing line compared with 23 cars last year.

First stretch

On Thursday's first stretch from Nairobi to the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa, West Germany's Erwin Weber took an early lead, despite exhaust pipe problems with his Volkswagen Golf GTI.

But on the dash back to Nairobi Friday, Lancia team-mates Biasion and Kenyan Vic Preston junior overtook Weber when a broken drive-shaft cost the West German the lead.

By the time the cars returned to the capital, Eriksson had moved up to equal first with Kirkland, Biasion having spent 30 minutes fitting a new turbo system and suffering gearbox problems.

Unluckily for the four-wheel drive Subaru, there were no heavy rains to give them an advantage over the more powerful Toyotas and Nissans and only a light shower fell Friday.

Treacherous run

Kankkunen, world champion in 1986 and 1987, took the lead Friday night during a treacherous run over forest trails and narrow plank bridges in the foothills of Mount Kenya and was able to celebrate his 29th birthday Saturday by leading the way into Kanyuki.

A turbo fault cost him the lead later that day, however, and Biasion and Kirkland overtook him on the first of the special sections in Kenya's arid northern deserts as Eriksson also dropped back.

Collision

Weber retired when his Volkswagen collided with a Lancia service vehicle Saturday and other casualties included defending champion Hannu Mikkola of Finland and Lars Erik Torp of Sweden.

Unluckily for the four-wheel drive Subaru, there were no heavy rains to give them an advantage over the more powerful Toyotas and Nissans and only a light shower fell Friday.

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Raids Enrile home, announces 4 other escapes

Philippine military mounts massive hunt for Honasan

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military stretched a dragnet across the country Monday, seeking renegade Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in a manhunt which brought new nervousness to Manila.

Troops widened their three-day-old search from north to south. But an army spokesman told reporters the elusive rebel leader, who evaded capture for months after an abortive coup last year, had again disappeared without trace after a daredevil escape from a prison ship Saturday.

"We have no concrete leads," Colonel Oscar Florendo told reporters.

A spokesman for President Corazon Aquino and senior military figures joined several newspapers in playing down the threat posed by Honasan's escape. However, Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez called the rebel "a clear and present danger to our government."

Warning

Apparently preparing for resumption of the propaganda campaign waged through the media during his weeks on the run after his August coup attempt, Ordonez warned that newspapers and broadcasting stations would not be given the same latitude again.

"It is my solemn duty to warn all radio and TV stations that the airing of interviews with Honasan... will constitute positive violations of the permits under which they have been allowed to operate. That policy is now reiterated in the interest of the survival of our democratic institutions," he

said in a statement read personally over radio.

"It is the duty of the government to crush all attempts to subvert or destroy it."

A leading Manila radio station, DZXL, said it was holding a taped, telephoned statement from the renegade officer but would not broadcast it or release it in line with the justice department's ruling.

The only comment by the rebel leader so far made public was a note left to the captain of the prison ship from which he escaped with the help of several of his guards.

"Please explain to your officers and men... that the struggle for a better armed forces of the Philippines must go on. Thank you for everything. God bless us all," said the note, signed with his nickname "Gringo."

Escapes, raid

Also Monday, the Philippine military revealed that four more soldiers held for plotting the overthrow of Aquino had escaped from custody.

The announcement came after assault troops raided a holiday home of former defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile in the hunt for Honasan.

A spokesman said two captains, a lieutenant and a sergeant had escaped from custody in the past two weeks but gave no dates. Other military sources said two

escaped Saturday and the other two a week earlier.

Two of the fugitives were involved in last August's coup attempt led by Honasan which was defeated only after bloody street fighting that left 53 people dead in Manila.

The other two had joined an earlier mutiny by troops loyal to deposed president Ferdinand Marcos.

Army assault teams found no trace of Honasan when they raided Enrile's beach house in Batangas province near Manila early Sunday.

Enrile, now opposition leader in the Senate, denounced the raid as illegal, saying the soldiers had no search warrant. He denied any part in the escape of his former security chief.

"They can arrest me... They can shoot me if they want to," Enrile said in a radio interview.

"RAM lives"

Late Sunday, anonymous leaflets bearing a picture of Honasan were circulated in a Manila church, calling on Aquino to step down.

Signed "The Filipino Soldier," the leaflet accused Aquino of tolerating corruption in her government and denounced her "self-righteous and perverted concept of democracy."

"RAM lives," it said, referring to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, an army faction founded by Honasan and other young army officers that senior commanders had ordered disbanded.

The Manila Daily Globe newspaper cautioned against public hysteria over the Honasan

escape, saying "the stability of the government does not hang upon his recapture."

"His escape restores some of (Honasan's) aura but it hardly builds overnight an army of mutinous soldiers around him. In all likelihood, he is destined for the life of a fugitive with an angry (military) in hot pursuit."

Enrile, a close political ally of Honasan, laughed at military claims that the rebel colonel bribed guards to help him with his escape.

"The truth is that many of these (soldiers) are already fed up," he said.

Enrile denied he had anything to do with Honasan's escape.

Distraction

Honasan's night escape, only days before he was to appear before a court martial, distracted official attention in Manila from major talks due to start Tuesday on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

A panel of Philippine officials led by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus met late Monday in Manila to set the final touches on a strategy which most analysts expect to have significant long-term effect on the relationship between the Philippines and its former colonial power.

The immediate issue is how much Washington pays for using Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base for the last two years of a 25-year agreement expiring in 1991.

A more far-reaching question, ever-present but not formally on the agenda, is whether Manila will allow the bases to stay on once the deadline is reached.

IRA says no cease-fire

BELFAST (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) dashed any hopes of a cease-fire in its war against British rule in Northern Ireland as the annual marching season got under way.

The IRA also said it will continue to attack British security forces. The intentions were expressed in a statement read aloud at one of a dozen marches by Roman Catholics Sunday commemorating the 1916 Easter rising against British rule in what is now the Republic of Ireland.

Protestants launch their marching season Monday when the fiercely pro-British Apprentice Boys commemorate Protestant resistance to the 1689 siege of Londonderry ordered by Catholic King James II.

Austin Currie, a prominent leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), expressed hope Sunday that talks between his moderate Catholic party and Sinn Fein, the legal political wing of the outlawed IRA, would lead to "a permanent end of military and violent activity."

In an Irish radio interview, Currie said draft documents were exchanged at the March 23 Sinn

Fein-SDLP meeting which could lead to a round-table conference that would also include Protestant parties and the Irish government.

"The war will go on"

But Martin McGuinness, vice president of Sinn Fein, told a 5,000-strong crowd at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast that cease-fires weren't even discussed at the talks.

"The IRA position on cease-fires has been on record for a long time: no more cease-fires," he said. "...talk (can) take place but the war will go on."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams told 1,500 people at a march in Londonderry, the province's second-largest city, that the talks with the SDLP "are about exploring whether there can be an agreement in principle to an overall strategy for justice and peace." But he said the two parties were poles apart.

Both Adams and McGuinness said they strongly opposed any solution to the nearly 20 years of sectarian strife in Northern Ireland based on self-government for the province. The only solution, they insisted, is for Britain

to pull out of the province where Protestants outnumber Catholics by 3-2.

In the Creggan area of Londonderry, security forces defused a bomb which the IRA said it planted but decided not to detonate when an army patrol passed because children were in the area.

Milltown revisited

The Sinn Fein march through west Belfast was led and tailed by armoured police land rovers with soldiers riding shotgun, their rifles cocked. Police followed the marchers into Milltown Cemetery and encircled them, with a number of soldiers hiding behind tombstones.

The Milltown Cemetery took place about 25 metres from the spot where a Protestant extremist killed three people at an unpoliced IRA funeral on March 16.

The no-policing policy ended after two British soldiers who drove into an IRA funeral on March 19 were dragged from their car, stripped and killed by the IRA.

Blasts rock U.S. centre in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Explosions and a fire struck the American centre in central New Delhi Monday a few hours after U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci arrived for talks with Indian officials.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said there were three explosions and an eyewitness told Reuters "a major fire" was burning in the modern glass-sheathed building that houses a library and the U.S. Information Service.

Carlucci arrived in the Indian capital earlier for talks expected to focus on Afghanistan and technological cooperation.

Delhi police logged the explosions at about 4 p.m. (1000 GMT). Police would not comment on the cause of the blasts.

But the embassy spokesman said he did not believe the explosions were connected with Carlucci's visit and said the fire could have started in the electrical system on the fifth floor and spread to the rest of the building.

There were about 200 employees in the building at the time, he said.

The centre is located about five kilometres from the main U.S. embassy complex in New Delhi's heavily guarded diplomatic enclave.

The centre, near the capital's most popular shopping area, has often been a target for anti-American demonstrations. In recent weeks, security has been tightened and a more secure entrance constructed.

Democrats vie for crucial primary votes

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (R) — Michael Dukakis mounted an all-out effort Monday to beat Jesse Jackson in Tuesday's important Wisconsin primary and recharge his sputtering drive for the U.S. Democratic presidential nomination.

The Massachusetts governor mapped a dawn-to-dusk campaign to prove he can win a large northern industrial state outside his native New England.

A big victory by Jackson in Wisconsin could strip Dukakis' slight national lead in nominating delegates and hobble his campaign before the major April 19 primary in New York.

Jackson returned to Wisconsin for an 11th-hour campaign tour after breaking away for two days to seek votes in Colorado, which holds its presidential preference caucuses Monday.

The contest in Wisconsin, an industrial and dairyland state where Dukakis holds a narrow lead in polls over Jackson for its 81 presidential nominating delegates, is more significant.

It will test whether Dukakis can win blue-collar workers, a group considered vital if the Democrats are to recapture the presidency from the Republicans.

Vice-President George Bush is the certain winner for the Republican presidential nomination since Senator Robert Dole, his main competitor, pulled out last week.

In Wisconsin, Dukakis leads Jackson by 43 to 35 per cent in a poll published by the Milwaukee Journal Sunday.

Tennessee Senator Albert Gore, who has not done well since the southern-dominated super Tuesday races on March 8, finished a distant third in the poll with 15 per cent.

Among Republicans, the poll showed Bush sweeping 80 per cent of the voters surveyed compared to seven per cent for the last remaining Bush rival, TV evangelist Pat Robertson.

A Robertson aide told Reuters the former evangelist expects Bush to wrap up the nomination by mid-April.

Aborigine leader seeks support from Libya

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Controversial aborigine activist Michael Mansell said Monday he will head a 12-member delegation to Libya next week to seek trade sanctions against Australia to protest its treatment of aborigines.

Mansell caused an uproar last year after returning from Tripoli and saying he discussed ways for

Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to bankroll a black revolution in Australia aimed at creating a separate aboriginal state.

He told a radio interviewer Monday that the group wants Libya to halt the import of live sheep from Australia, a 30-million dollar (U.S. \$20 million) industry.

Panama denies harassment of U.S. envoy

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama denied Monday that military police were harassing U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis when a police van chased his car and tried to make it pull over.

A Panamanian Foreign Ministry statement said a police sergeant decided to follow the ambassador when he saw an "exaggerated display of automatic arms carried by men in civilian dress in the three cars accompanying... Davis."

The U.S. embassy earlier classified as "serious" the incident Sunday in which a police van of the Panamanian Defence Forces (PDF) followed Davis with its lights flashing and sirens howling for 3 kilometres from the Vatican mission to Davis's residence.

The ambassador was returning from an Easter morning call on the Vatican mission, a U.S. embassy official said.

He said the police van was waiting for Davis outside the Vatican mission. The Foreign Ministry said the incident was "strictly a police reaction within sovereign Panamanian territory."

Asked if the embassy planned to take any action, the U.S. official said: "If you don't recognise the government it's hard to protest."

Washington considers as president Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was deposed after trying to fire military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega on Feb. 25.

Delvalle was voted out of office by the military-dominated legislative assembly and replaced by Acting President Manuel Solis Palma.

In Washington, the State Department Monday accused the Panamanian army of harassing Davis and said the United States would take all steps necessary to protect Americans in Panama.

The department also reacted coolly to news that Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson had been in contact with Noriega and had offered to help ease tensions between the two countries.

In a letter to Jackson released by the candidate's campaign staff Monday, Noriega asked the black civil rights leader to help end U.S. interference in his country.

"You can quickly do a lot to help, by eliminating one of the principal causes of the suffering of many Panamanians. In other words, the foreign intervention," Noriega said in his letter.

Jackson, campaigning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said he favoured Noriega's ouster and appealed him to quit.

China sets demands for Dalai Lama's return

PEKING (R) — The Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest spiritual leader, said Monday China would allow his superior, the Dalai Lama, to return and live in his homeland if he gave up his idea of Tibetan independence.

China has previously said the Dalai Lama would have to reside in Peking, not in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

Speaking at a rare news conference which was televised live in China, the Panchen Lama also revealed that five people died as a result of rioting on March 5 in which several thousand Tibetans, led by more than 100 Buddhist monks, clashed with police.

Police opened fire in self-defence and two people were shot dead, he said.

The Panchen Lama, who holds a senior post in the Chinese government and lives in Peking, said police also beat monks with clubs during their attempts to rescue local leaders whose lives were threatened by rioting separatists.

"Splittist" activities

Dressed in brown robes and speaking in a deep, booming voice, the Panchen Lama said there was one sole condition set by China for the return of the Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after a failed anti-Chinese uprising.

He said the Dalai Lama would have to give up the idea of Tibetan independence "and refrain from engaging in any activities aimed at splitting the motherland."

The Panchen Lama described his superior as a "good religious friend" and said he would be allowed to live in Tibet if he

returned.

The Chinese constitution, which gave people the right to choose their place of residence, meant the Dalai Lama could live in Peking or Tibet, the Panchen Lama said.

He spoke during the news conference in Tibetan. His remarks were translated by one interpreter into Chinese and then by another into English.

China would not tolerate the Dalai Lama returning and continuing his "splittist" activities, the Panchen Lama said.

But if he did return he would be given the same office as the Panchen Lama — vice chairman of China's parliament, the National People's Congress.

In recent statements, the Dalai Lama has stopped short of demanding total independence for Tibet but has called on China to remove its hundreds of thousands of troops from the region which borders Tibet.

Conflicting accounts

The Panchen Lama's account of last month's rioting in Tibet conflicted with accounts in China's official media which reported that one policeman died.

The Panchen Lama said that in addition to the policeman, two civilians were shot dead by police by mistake, a monk was killed by stones thrown by rioters and one person died later in hospital from injuries. The hospital death apparently was not included last week when the Panchen Lama said four people had died.

Tibetans in Lhasa have spoken of up to 20 people being killed, including many monks who died when police stormed the Jokhang

Temple, the centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

Western reporters have been barred from visiting the remote region but a few tourists have been allowed in since last month.

The killers of the young policeman would be executed if a court found them guilty of murder, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, a senior Tibetan official, told the news conference.

The Panchen Lama said more than 330 policemen and soldiers were injured in the fighting and 110 civilians sought medical help for their injuries.

If translated correctly, it was the first official confirmation that the army had been used to quell the disturbances which continued into the next morning.

Police detained more than 200 people after the rioting and most were released later, he said. Tibetans in Lhasa have spoken of up to 2,000 people arrested, many at night.

Dalai Lama in London

The 52-year-old Dalai Lama was due to arrive in Britain Monday for a visit which he has described as "purely religious and humanitarian in nature."

He is scheduled to address a "global forum on human survival" at Oxford University.

A British official in India said Tibetan spokesmen had given undertakings that the Dalai Lama would not engage in political activities in Britain.

In a recent letter to Reuters in New Delhi, the Dalai Lama wrote: "The people of Tibet do not want to live under the yoke of Chinese rule. They want freedom and justice. They want to live in dignity."

Egyptians told to eat less sugar

By Fouad Gawhari
Reuters

CAIRO — The Egyptian government is telling a nation of sugar-lovers: Eat Less.

It is not unusual to see an Egyptian heap five or seven sugar lumps in a cup of coffee. Some adult to as many as 10.

Egypt's 52 million people chomp through an annual 33 kilograms (73 pounds) each on average, compared with Turks' 24 kg. (53 lb.) and Indians' 10 kg. (22 lb.), according to official figures. Half Egypt's sugar is imported.

Together with cheap, subsidised bread, it makes for a nation whose typical physique is bulky.

"The problem is too much bread and sugar," nutritionist Muhammad Amr Hussein told Reuters, noting bread was sacred to ancient Egyptians.

He estimates starch — mainly bread — and sugar make up 70 to

75 per cent of the average Egyptian's diet.

And nutritionists say these are the main sources of obesity in the Third World, whereas fats are the main culprits in industrialised nations.

Bad health certificate

Trying to thin the nation down, authorities are taking up a theme familiar in many other countries — eat less and stay healthy, and eat the right food.

"You are signing your bad health certificate," warns a television advertisement showing a fat Egyptian devouring a huge cake and washing it down with several cups of sugar-thick tea.

The campaign has coincided with shortages of sugar that could, ironically, make it less effective.

When the shortages occurred in February, forcing people to buy on the black market if at all, an air of national crisis prevailed. The shortages provoked an out-

cry in parliament. Supply Minister Galal Abul Dahad offered to resign, and said that the country simply ate too much sugar.

Officials never linked the shortages to the health campaign, but many people ridiculed the "Eat Less" advertisements as an official ploy to cover up failure to provide supplies.

Walk it off

Fawzy Al Shobaky, a nutritionist with the National Research Centre, blames the national tendency to overweight on the delicacies of the country's cuisine and lack of exercise.

He reckons Egyptians consume 25 to 30 per cent more calories than they need.

"I am not against delicious food, but without excess. Many recipes contain a lot of butter and are overcooked," he said, adding: "Most people here don't even bother to go for a walk after a heavy meal."

India could overtake China in population

By Randolph E. Schmid.
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — India could surpass China as the world's most populous nation in the not too distant future, the U.S. Census Bureau said Sunday.

China has long been the world's most heavily populated nation and now is home to about one-fifth of the earth's people.

But, "the time is now foreseeable when India will take over the No. 1 spot, reflecting a population growth rate that is nearly twice as high as China's," the bureau reported.

"The latest projections suggest that India's population may surpass China's in less than 60 years, or before today's youngsters in both countries reach old age," the bureau said in its new "World Population Profile: 1987."

Now has 1,088,169,000 people, compared with India's 816,828,000.

But India has a birth rate of 32 per 1,000 people, compared with just 20 per 1,000 in China, which has conducted an intensive birth-control campaign in recent years.

Subtracting deaths, India's population is growing by 2.1 per cent annually, China's by only 1.3 per cent, the bureau reported.

Thus, population projections for the year 2050 show India as the world's most populated country, with an anticipated 1,591,204,000 people. At the same time, China would have a population of 1,554,875,000.

Sharp changes

Sharp changes are expected in other nations too, the report says.

Here is a rundown of the 20 most populous nations today, and those that the U.S. Census Bureau expects to hold those rankings in the year 2050. Populations are in millions.

1988	2050
China	1,088
India	817
The USSR	286
The U.S.	246
Indonesia	184
Brazil	151
Japan	123
Nigeria	112
Bangladesh	110
Pakistan	107
Mexico	84
Vietnam	65
The Philippines	63
W. Germany	61
Italy	57
Britain	57
France	56
Thailand	55
Turkey	54
Egypt	53
India	1,591
China	1,555
Nigeria	471
Pakistan	424
The USSR	386
Brazil	368
Indonesia	360
The U.S.	299
Bangladesh	266
Iran	252
Ethiopia	243
The Philippines	204
Mexico	169
Vietnam	166
Kenya	166
Zaire	158
Egypt	142
Tanzania	133
Turkey	120
Japan	115

The Soviet Union, now ranked third in population, is expected to drop to No. 5 by the year 2050. Fourth-place United States would slip to eighth, while No. 5 Indonesia would drop to seventh.

Expected to become third by 2050 is Nigeria, currently ranked 13th. Pakistan, now No. 14, is expected to rise to fourth.

Other findings contained in the new report include:

— World population, which recently passed the five billion mark, is expected to reach 10 billion by 2040.

— More than half of the world's population lives in Asia. — The death rate in developing

countries is falling and is expected to dip below that of more developed nations, which have generally older populations and thus higher overall death rates.

— With the decrease in mortality, the population of sub-Saharan Africa could grow at 3.1 per cent annually for the rest of the century, twice as fast as the rest of the world.

— Contraceptive use has been rising, but the level varies widely by country.

— Infants born in Switzerland, Hong Kong and Japan can anticipate a lifespan of 78 years; more than double the 38 years for youngsters born in Chad.

COLUMN
800000

No thanks

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino has ruled out the idea of remarriage, saying she is content with her life and wary of the risks involved in tying the knot a second time. "I think I am happy enough the way I am. As you know... I am not really a gambler," she said in answer to a caller's question on a weekly radio broadcast Sunday night. The 55-year-old widow was catapulted to power in 1986 almost three years after her husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, was shot dead at Manila airport. "I am already fortunate enough to have had a happy marriage. I do not want to try again... My life right now is okay," she said. Aquino, who once described her husband as a male chauvinist who would never have believed she would one day become president, added: "I am independent and I do not have to take any orders from anybody."

No comment

PEKING (R) — A line of girls dressed only in their underwear is driven down a street in China, their names and prices marked on their backs. They are quickly surrounded by a large crowd of traders called for buyers. Chinese village women are increasingly being bought and sold in a